

'Mine may have sunk ferry'

TALLINN (AFP) — One of about 40 abandoned naval mines discovered floating in the Baltic Sea may have sunk the Estonia, the ferry's chief operator said here Saturday. "There are some 40 sea mines near Osmussaar — this could be a solution," said Johannes Johanson, managing director of Estline, the company which operated the Estonia. Osmussaar is an Estonian island located about 80 kilometres southwest of Tallinn in the Baltic Sea. The existence of the mines has been confirmed by the Estonian government and the area has been closed off to shipping, Mr. Johanson said in an interview. He said he did not know where the mines came from. "Maybe they were from World War II," he said. The Estonia sank suddenly early Wednesday during a Tallinn to Stockholm voyage with more than 1,000 people on board, of whom only 140 are believed to have survived (see page 5). Company officials and investigators in Sweden and Finland have suggested several possible explanations for the disaster, including the opening of the cargo hold's main doors during passage and the shutdown of the ship's motors. Mr. Johanson has denied that there were any faults with the vessel that could have caused it to sink.

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Israel is ready to withdraw after marking border - Majali

No date set because talks not yet at that stage

By Saad Slawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israel has expressed its readiness to withdraw its forces from Jordanian territories occupied since 1968 and agreed to delineate international borders with the Kingdom, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Saturday.

"There is no alternative to delineation of the borders after which each side will withdraw to the agreed lines. Israel has expressed readiness to withdraw after maps have been drawn and the delineation of borders is completed," Dr. Majali said in an interview with Al Rai and the Jordan Times.

Dr. Majali said that no date has been set yet for the withdrawal because the "process had to be finalised in the right perspective first and matters should not be rushed."

Noting that a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee had been reviewing maps and documents in the possession of the two sides, Dr. Majali said both sides had agreed to

respect the territorial integrity of each other once the borders were demarcated.

Dr. Majali said His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Aqaba on Thursday came in line with the provisions in the Washington Declaration.

The King and Mr. Rabin will be meeting now and then to review progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and discuss any obstacle or misunderstanding, Dr. Majali said.

He said that the Aqaba summit — "one more link in a series of links" — was frank and serious in nature. The two sides reviewed steps that were taken so far and the problems that impede the process as well as attempts to overcome the difficulties, he said.

The prime minister said that so far the talks, which focus on the common agenda, not yet reached the stage when one could say that a peace agreement was ready for signing.

"As it is known, the common agenda contains numer-

ous topics and the two sides are still to reach a final stage in their discussions," he said, reiterating Jordan's commitment to the common agenda as a basis for the negotiations.

Commenting on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's current visit to Washington, where he is to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday, Dr. Majali said that the meeting was part of the bilateral negotiations.

The trilateral meetings involving the United States deal with many projects which are to be initiated in the region and are of concern to Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians.

He said American support for these projects was of paramount importance.

On Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), especially in the aftermath of Jordan's decision ending its guardianship over the Awqaf and Islamic sites in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem, Dr. Majali said: "If there was a crisis with the

PLO over this matter it should have ended now following Jordan's decision because the road is open for the Palestinian brothers of the Palestine National Authority to take charge of the Awqaf affairs."

But, he noted, the Palestine National Authority has not yet been extended to Jerusalem and that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the Holy City are in the final stage.

"Once that final stage has been reached there will be a reconsideration of this question," said Dr. Majali, adding that "the Palestinian brothers hold the right over their own lands."

Denying any crisis with the PLO, Dr. Majali said: "There are certain parties who try to create one with or without due cause."

"We do not feel that a crisis exists and we do not create any crisis nor do we want to be part of one."

Asked about his views concerning the three Arab Gulf islands occupied by Iran, Dr.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday presents the Al Nahda Medal of the First Order to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad (Photo by Youssef Al-Arian)

King, Mahathir discuss Mideast peace process, bilateral relations

Malaysian premier, Majali voice hope for boosted ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Raghadan Palace Saturday Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and discussed with him the Middle East situation and ways to boost cooperation between Jordan and Malaysia in various fields.

King Hussein outlined to Dr. Mahathir progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace process, noting that the Kingdom had shouldered heavy burdens over the past decades as a result of the Palestine question, which he said left their adverse effects on the Kingdom's economy.

Dr. Mahathir said his country understood and appreciates the Jordanian

position and the hardships the country had to face over the past decades.

He voiced support for the Kingdom's policies and its drive to attain a just and durable peace.

Present at the meeting were His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Following the meeting, the King and the Malaysian premier held an expanded meeting attended by officials on both sides. Discussions covered political, economic and cultural affairs, with special focus on ways to bolster trade and economic cooperation.

Dr. Majali hosted a state

dinner Saturday in honour of the Malaysian premier and the delegation accompanying him.

In speeches exchanged at the banquet, both prime ministers paid tribute to Jordanian-Malaysian relations and expressed confidence that cooperation between the two sides would continue to grow in all spheres.

On the political front, Dr. Mahathir reaffirmed his country's support for the Middle East peace process and called on Israel to "demonstrate its sincerity and goodwill in resolving the remaining outstanding issues, particularly its continued occupation of the Arab terri-

ories and the rightful status of Jerusalem."

"For the momentum of the peace process to be maintained, it is important that Israel matches its words with deeds," he said.

"The Muslim World today suffers from various maladies," he said. "They are weak and oppressed and we have the emergence of numerous sects and creeds, some of which plainly deviate from the true teachings of Islam. In Malaysia today, we do not have problems relating to extremism but we do have groups who are deviationist in their approach. One such group which was

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GCC ends partial boycott of Israel

DUBAI (Agencies) — Gulf Arab states have ended 47 years of boycotting companies that trade with Israel but they are not likely to drop a direct boycott of the Jewish state outside an overall Arab consensus, diplomats said on Saturday.

They said some of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, where foreign investments are worth billions of dollars and imports are valued at some \$45 billion a year, had eased their boycott on firms dealing with Israel after the 1990-91 Gulf war over Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The new move was significant and came as a surprise after the Gulf states repeatedly said they would follow any Arab League decision on lifting the boycott, which remains a highly emotive issue for many Arabs, they added.

Diplomats outside the region say the Washington

administration had put heavy pressure on the Saudi-led GCC to ease the boycott and linked it to continued U.S. objection to the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq (see page 2).

"The decision is a significant step towards ending the direct boycott of Israel, but the Gulf states will not do that without an Arab consensus and before some progress being made between Israel and Syria," one diplomat said.

"I don't think any attempts to lift the direct boycott will succeed," said a Gulf diplomat. "Gulf states are waiting to see what is happening on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks."

The diplomats said the Gulf states still felt "a sense of gratitude" for Syria's role in the U.S.-led multinational force that ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in 1991.

Iran blasted GCC for easing the boycott saying the decision was proof of Arab disunity.

Iran's state radio warned the move would "make it easier for the Zionist regime to carry out its plots in the Middle East."

Lifting the boycott has been a long-standing U.S. goal, but is opposed by Syria, which argued forcefully against it at an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo last March. Damascus says it should await an overall peace settlement.

"There is no incentive left for the Gulf to keep the primary boycott. What is left is the element of political embarrassment," a Kuwaiti economist said. "Any development on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks would open the way to end the primary boycott."

In the first reported Arab reaction, newspapers in

Beirut quoted Foreign Minister Faris Bouez as saying in New York that the GCC decision was a rushed move that will not help the Arab position at the peace talks.

A GCC statement issued on Friday after talks between GCC foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York said the six states had taken "necessary measures" to protect the interests of the GCC and its trading partners.

As a result of these measures and for all practical purposes, secondary and tertiary boycott are no longer a threat to the interests of these partners," it said.

The secondary boycott refers to an Arab League ban since the creation of Israel in 1948 on trading with firms that deal with Israel. The tertiary part bans deals with companies that trade with

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Likud voters support land-for-peace deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A majority of supporters of the right-wing Likud bloc believe the party should soften its position and adopt the idea of giving up some Arab land in exchange for peace with Syria, according to a survey released Saturday.

The poll results could have implications for the referendum Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said will be held if a peace agreement with Syria requires significant Israeli troop withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Likud is the largest opposition party, and party leader Benjamin Netanyahu maintains that a majority in Israel opposes giving back any part of the strategic plateau seized from Syria in the 1967 war.

Citing public opposition to withdrawal, Mr. Netanyahu has demanded that a referendum be held now on whether the government has the mandate to negotiate with Syria over the future of the Golan.

But Environment Protection Minister Yossi Sarid said Saturday that he was confident the government could win a referendum once it presented a detailed land-for-peace package to the public.

"I can assure you that the government of Israel will not hesitate to initial a peace agreement with Syria," Mr. Sarid told Israel Radio.

"A referendum will be held (only) after initialling

such an agreement so that people will have a clear and complete picture of what they are voting for."

A survey by Haifa University among 1,500 Israelis indicated that 52 per cent favoured territorial compromise on the Golan in exchange for peace, while 45 opposed giving back any land.

Among the respondents were 400 Likud voters. Polling separately, 28 per cent said they favoured territorial compromise, while 69 per cent said they opposed it.

But when the Likud voters were asked whether their party should adopt a position of territorial compromise, 46 per cent said yes and 42 per cent said no.

The poll results were broadcast on Israel Radio which did not give the margin of error.

Former Israeli President Chaim Herzog was quoted as saying on Saturday Israel should take a tougher stance in peace talks with Syria and demand direct negotiations to replace the mediation of the United States.

"I personally believe we should have moved much more slowly in the Syrian question... the advances, made with Palestinians and Jordanians meant we had time," Mr. Herzog told the right-wing Spanish daily ABC.

PLO, Israel near deal on crossings

GAZA (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel are expected to sign an agreement on Monday on Palestinian presence at border crossings to the self-rule areas from Egypt and Jordan, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Saturday.

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said a 61-page draft agreement finalised on Thursday was submitted to the PNA on Saturday.

"I have the approval of the cabinet for signing or at least initialling the agreement of passages on Monday," Dr. Shaath told reporters after the meeting.

"We hope this will lead to immediate implementation of the agreement," he said.

The general secretary of the PNA, Tayeb Abdul Rahim, told Reuters its members would study the draft and submit their comments before the Monday meeting in Rafah.

"The draft agreement is in line with the PLO-Israeli accord signed in Cairo in May," Dr. Shaath said.

According to the Cairo agreement, Palestinian policemen would be deployed in terminals at border crossings. The policemen would carry handguns.

"Palestinian residents of

self-rule areas crossing into Gaza and Jericho will be dealing only with Palestinian officers, and they will not be inspected by Israelis, but by Palestinians, and there will be Palestinian customs officers as well at the terminals," Dr. Shaath said.

"As for West Bank residents and visitors, they will be dealing with both Israeli and Palestinian officers at the border crossings, but there will be new measures which are aimed at facilitating crossing and ensuring the dignity of persons," he said.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinian authority also discussed in its meeting the mandate of the committee on elections, which will meet with Israelis on Monday in Cairo.

"We would like to see elections take place as soon as possible, not later than the end of this year," Dr. Shaath said.

The PNA official in charge of elections also said he hoped negotiations with Israel would produce agreement to hold polls for a Palestinian self-rule council by the year's end.

Saeed Erakat, chairman of the Palestinian elections committee, told Israel Radio that at the Cairo talks the Palestinians would press for holding the elections as early as possible.

Sarid: Hebron settlers may have to be moved

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli government may have to move Jewish settlers out of Hebron once Israeli troops withdraw from the tense West Bank city under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord, an Israeli cabinet minister said Saturday.

Environment Protection Minister Yossi Sarid also said he expected many Jewish settlements to be dismantled once Israel and the Palestinians reach a permanent peace agreement.

"It is clear to everyone that tomorrow's map of peace will be a far cry from today's map of the settlements," Mr. Sarid, a senior Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians, told Israel Radio.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, all 144 Jewish settle-

ments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are to remain in place during the five-year transition period of Palestinian self-rule.

Negotiations on the final status of the territories, include the fate of the settlements, are to begin in mid-1996.

However, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly came close to ordering an evacuation of the 450 Jewish settlers from Hebron after a settler shot and killed more than 30 Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahim mosque in February.

Hebron has been particularly tense since the massacre. The Jewish settlers live in six tiny enclaves in the town of 110,000 Palestinians. Mr. Rabin is the end de-

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Saleh reelected Yemen president

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen's parliament, meeting in the capital Sanaa on Saturday, overwhelmingly reelected Ali Abdullah Saleh as president, almost three months after he crushed southern secessionists.

Mr. Saleh, who was reelected for a five-year term, won the votes of 253 members of parliament out of 259 who attended the session of the 301-seat assembly. The other six were declared invalid.

Constitutional amendments approved by parliament on Wednesday left Mr. Saleh as Yemen's undisputed leader by abolishing the ruling five-member presidential council, of which he was chairman, and replacing it by a president of the republic.

Mr. Saleh, who will be sworn in on Sunday, later told a parliamentary delegation that the country must work to recover from two months of war.

"The phase is a difficult one and there is a need for cooperation of all and alignment of efforts," he said. "Just as hands met to defeat secession and make deeper unity and democracy, they should meet to proceed with guiding the ship of the homeland... to the shore of safety."

Mr. Saleh led the conservative North Yemen until it united with South Yemen in 1990. Loyalist troops defeated southern secessionists after a two-month civil war on July 7.

U.S. troops keep distance in Haiti looting

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — U.S. troops and Haitian police dispersed a new outbreak of looting in the port area here Saturday, but elsewhere there was a relative calm after two days of bloodshed.

Two congressional delegations meanwhile were to pay a brief visit to assess the situation as Washington grappled with how best to ensure security during the transition from military to democratic rule.

The U.S. military police patrolling the port area fired warning shots in the air as a crowd of hungry Haitians ransacked a warehouse which they said belonged to the "attachees," paramilitary

benchmen who work in collaboration with the Haitian army and police.

But as the crowd pressed forward hammering on the metal doors of the establishment with hammers and

crowbars, the U.S. units returned to their vehicles and left the scene.

Two Haitian policemen arrived shortly after provoking a panic among the looters, but they drove away almost immediately allowing the pilage of sacks of flour, rice and sugar to continue unabated.

The Haitians returned with a truckload of officers and broke up the crowd by lobbing a teargas canister at them. U.S. military police then arrived again to secure the premises.

Asked why the U.S. forces did not intervene more forcefully at first, embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger said: "There's no way we could provide security for every store in the city. You don't intervene unless life is threatened."

The area near the Port-au-Prince port was the site of looting Friday and a grenade

attack Thursday on a crowd of supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide which killed at least seven people and wounded over 80.

Another five people were killed and some 30 wounded, the Red Cross said Friday, in an updated toll, when supporters and opponents of Aristide clashed after a commemorative mass at the Roman Catholic Cathedral followed by a march.

The scene was quiet Saturday outside the headquarters of the pro-military Front for the Advancement and Progress in Haiti (FRAPH), the scene of the street clashes.

"We learned something from yesterday's incidents," embassy spokesman Schragger said, although he reaffirmed U.S. concern over the failure of the Haitian police to control the situation.

"It's clear they have not done what we hoped they would do which is to provide

security during the transition," Mr. Schragger said.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry predicted more bloodshed before the army is scheduled to hand over power. He said Friday that Haiti's two major cities would be "blanketed" with U.S. soldiers to try to minimise the violence.

No widespread violence was reported Saturday in the capital. But a man with knife wounds was carried into Port-au-Prince's main hospital Saturday morning after he was attacked by a mob that accused him of being a pro-army militiaman.

By Oct. 15, Haitian army commander Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras is to step aside in favour of Mr. Aristide, the elected president ousted seven months into his term.

Gen. Cedras agreed to relinquish power to avert a U.S. invasion.

GCC pledges to support ending Arab economic boycott of Israel

NEW YORK (USIA) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) announced Friday that it will no longer enforce the secondary and tertiary aspects of the Arab League's boycott against Israel and will support moves to lift the boycott entirely, prompting immediate praise from the United States.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, following an hour-long meeting with GCC foreign ministers in New York, emphasised the importance of the action by the Arab League states. The GCC is comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

"Ending the Arab boycott of Israel has long been a key objective of the United States as we work to advance peace in the region," he said. "The steps taken today with respect to the boycott of Israel are very significant steps and I want to thank each of the ministers for the courage and commitment that coalesced them to move forward to this very significant day."

Essentially, the GCC states announced their commitment "no longer to enforce the secondary and tertiary aspect of the boycott and not to discriminate against American companies," the secretary explained. "In addition, we welcome their indication that they will support an effort in the Arab League to do away with the boycott in its entirety."

"It's our hope that that effort will be undertaken in the very near future," Mr. Christopher said. "There can be no doubt that the Gulf states have played a very valuable role in the region."

Concerning the discussion

on Iraq, Mr. Christopher said: "Our nations agree that we must maintain sanctions on Iraq as long as Baghdad fails to demonstrate its peaceful intentions and fails to carry out all the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council."

Echoing the secretary's comments on Iraq, Prince Saud Al Faisal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, said the GCC insists that Iraq fulfill all its obligations toward Kuwait, including formal and irrevocable recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, independence and borders, as well as accounting for and returning all Kuwaitis and others listed as missing-in-action and Kuwaiti property, including military equipment now in Iraqi hands. He also urged the U.N. Security Council to bear in mind Iraq's continued threat to peace and stability in the Gulf region when it considers Iraq's status.

A senior U.S. official later described the Arab boycott of Israel as "a relic of the past" and a senior GCC diplomat agreed. "The realities have changed," the GCC official said. "The boycott was imposed by the Arab League to support the Palestinian cause."

When Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands at the White House just over a year ago, "that dramatically changed the whole equation," he said.

The U.S. official said the GCC statement "ends a very clear message" and removes doubts for a lot of American companies. The statement "sends out a signal to the private sector here and elsewhere that there won't be a penalty for doing business with Israel. They can be doing business with the Israelis and they can do business as well with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states."

As an example, the two officials cited the Bechtel Corporation, one of America's largest construction firms, which in the past has not done business in Israel because Bechtel officials

were concerned about jeopardising their extensive business interest in the Arab World.

The GCC official explained that the boycott may now be hindering peace because a lot of American and European companies feel they cannot help in the development of Gaza or Jericho because of the boycott. "We see this as a positive development to match the reality on the ground," the GCC diplomat told reporters. "And on the Syrian front, I think it's important to add, we really believe this will help that track" of the Middle East peace negotiations. "If anything, this should enhance the negotiating atmosphere," he said.

The senior U.S. official said Mr. Christopher expects to return to the Middle East for a new round of peace talks during the first half of October. He has been helping to facilitate contacts between Israel and Syria.

While a breakthrough in these talks "is not imminent," the U.S. official told reporters, "the negotiations are clearly more serious, more detailed than any before. They indicate a desire, we believe, on each side to try to reach an agreement, but there are real gaps."

He cautioned against "any false expectations" warning that "one has to be realistic." In May Mr. Christopher presented an Israeli package proposal to Syria and in return brought a Syrian package proposal to Israel.

"We have gotten into an increasing level of detail on all the issues that are encompassed in those proposals — the question of withdrawal, the question of peace, the question of a timetable, the question of security arrangements, the interrelationship of all these factors," the senior official said.

"We have not overcome many of the basic gaps that exist," the U.S. official emphasised. "There is a lot of hard work to be done and it's going to take time. We're out on the brink of a breakthrough at this point, but we are in a process that offers

more promise than we have seen before."

Text of statement

The text of a GCC press release follows:

The Cooperation Council of the Arab states of the Gulf, having actively supported the Middle East peace process ever since the launching of the Madrid conference and being fully aware of the important breakthroughs realised so far, particularly in the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks which comprise agreements covering economic cooperation between the Israelis and both the Jordanians and the Palestinians, seriously recognises the importance of a review of the provisions of the Arab boycott of Israel so as to take into consideration progress achieved and substantive future requirements of the peace process.

The GCC member states have constantly reiterated their determination to enhance cooperation with their trading partners in various spheres. Concerning the application of the Arab boycott of Israel, necessary measures have been taken with a view to protecting the mutual interests of the GCC and its trading partners. As a result of these measures and for all practical purposes, secondary and tertiary boycott are no longer a threat to the interests of these partners.

Whereas the Arab boycott of Israel was enacted by the League of the Arab states, and its review to take into consideration developments and requirements of the Middle East peace process must take place, the GCC member states will support all or any initiative for such review presented in the League of Arab states. Further, the GCC believes that a sponsorship of such initiative by Arab parties directly involved in the bilateral negotiations, whether collectively or individually, shall facilitate the required review and ensure a greater chance of success.

7 Somalis killed, U.N soldier hurt in clash

MOGADISHU (R) — Seven Somalis were killed, 19 wounded and an Indian soldier was shot in the hand when looters raided a convoy in Mogadishu, a U.N. spokesman said on Friday.

Major Richard McDonald said preliminary U.N. reports that three Indian soldiers serving as U.N. peacekeepers had been wounded while guarding the convoy on Thursday proved incorrect. He also increased the death toll among Somalis to seven from the one reported earlier.

"Somali casualty figures are amended as follows: Seven Somalis killed and 19 wounded," he told reporters. Residents said the Somalis wounded during the firefight in a crowded area of south Mogadishu included at least one child.

Maj. McDonald said the U.N. convoy had been attacked from two positions and by two "technical" hand-drawn weapons — homemade mobile gunwags — which managed to escape.

"UNOSOM condemns the callous nature of the attack that so clearly endangered the lives of UNOSOM troops... and would appear to have caused casualties among Somalis otherwise not involved," Maj. McDonald said.

On Friday, the U.N. Security Council extended for one month the mandate of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) before

a final decision on when to leave the lawless Horn of Africa country.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has recommended a one-month extension for the mission while U.N. officials assess the situation.

U.S. officials said this week that Washington wanted the United Nations to pull its 18,000 troops out of Somalia by the end of this year rather than next March as originally planned.

In a resolution adopted by a vote of 14 in favour with one abstention from the United States, the Security Council said the mandate would be extended for a period of one month expiring October 31.

The United Nations plans to end its mission in Somalia in March 1995 but U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said full withdrawal should take place before the end of the year.

"The time has come to bring this U.N. mission to a conclusion," said Ms. Albright.

"In the face of Somali intransigence and unwillingness to reach political agreement, UNOSOM can not continue to maintain 15,000 troops in Somalia and spend over \$2.5 million a day," she said. The Security Council also said it was strongly condemned the attacks and harassment of U.N. peacekeepers and personnel.

Would-be Biblical cohorts roam Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Be it mountain air, meadow disorders or messages from god — something is convincing hundreds of visitors to Jerusalem they are Jesus, John the Baptist or King David reborn.

Israeli psychiatrists have diagnosed the visitors to the Holy City with the "Jerusalem syndrome," first recognized 14 years ago. Yair Bar-El, who has treated 470 tourists with the syndrome, thinks would-be prophets are a growth industry with the approach of the year 2000.

Police said disorientation is the key sign that something is amiss.

"They don't know where they are," said Victor Wadabaker, assistant head of Jerusalem's tourist police. "They don't have a proper explanation, like a normal person."

Mr. Wadabaker said one 65-year-old German woman wandered away from her husband while touring the Old City last year and was found the next day near Bethlehem, 10 kilometres south. She said a divine voice commanded her to walk in that direction.

Another woman, a New York City teacher, abandoned her tour group only to be discovered chanting spirituals in a toga as she headed towards the Via Dolorosa, the route Jesus took with the cross to his crucifixion.

The Rev. Colin Morton, of Jerusalem's St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, said he had met people who believed they were Elijah the prophet, John the Baptist or Jesus.

"You do get quite a number of people who feel that they have received special missions and messages from god," Father Morton said. Most experts believe the effect is sparked by the shock of seeing a bustling, modern city instead of the sanctity many expected.

"Even walking down the Via Dolorosa there are shops, people hawking their wares," said Clarence Wagner, international director of Bridges for Peace, a group promoting Christian-Jewish understanding. "They can't put the two images together — what their expectations were and what they are actually seeing."

The interplay of mystical and mercantile was evident this week at the western wall. Dor Shurin, a fixture at the site, said he briefly believed he was the messiah five years ago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baker favours sending U.S. troops to Golan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Friday called for U.S. troops to be sent to the Golan Heights as part of any peace accord between Israel and Syria. Asked on Israeli Television whether he supported sending U.S. troops to the Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, Mr. Baker said: "Yes, I support it." "I think that the Congress and the public will support it," Mr. Baker, who served as secretary of state in the Bush administration, said a deployment of U.S. troops accompanied by demilitarisation of the Golan would provide Israel with the necessary security guarantee following a withdrawal of its troops from the Heights. "Israel has the right to know that her security will not be affected," he said.

Egypt in running for Security Council seat

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday his country was in the running for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. "I would like to announce that there are a certain number of eligible countries for a seat on the Security Council and among those is Egypt," Mr. Musa told a session of the U.N. General Assembly. Nigeria announced it would submit its candidacy for a seat and South Africa was also viewed as a possible contender. Mr. Musa said Egypt had made "significant contributions to peacekeeping and to international security" and stressed that its diverse alliances helped promote peace in the Middle East and African regions. The Security Council is comprised of 15 members of which five are permanent members holding veto power: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. Germany and Japan have lobbied for widening the Security Council and are viewed as the top contenders in the race for the additional permanent seat.

U.S. to provide \$4m to Palestinian police

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The United States is to provide to the newly formed Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip and Jericho with an additional gift of \$4 million, according to an agreement reached here Friday. The accord was signed by Christopher Croly, head of a U.S. aid programme for the West Bank and Gaza, and Nabil Shaath, responsible for international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority that is administering the newly autonomous areas. Dr. Shaath said the \$4 million would be "transferred immediately" to the authority. Washington last May made available an initial gift of \$5 million to fund police operations in the self-rule areas. Britain on Tuesday announced it was providing \$4.5 million.

Rushdie plans book on his years in hiding

SYDNEY (AFP) — Author Salman Rushdie says he plans to write a book about his years in hiding from Muslim extremists, a newspaper reported Saturday. Mr. Rushdie told Michael Davies, in an interview published in the Sydney Morning Herald, that he had been keeping a diary of his life in hiding for the past five years. Mr. Rushdie has been out of public sight since his book, *The Satanic Verses*, caused Iran's former spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to issue a fatwa, or decree, threatening him with death. "When it is over, I would like to write what must be a non-fiction book. Not a novel, because what's interesting about the crisis is that it's true," he told Mr. Davies. The prize-winning author said in the interview, given in London, that he would write the book when he did not have "to keep secrets." Before the fatwa, Mr. Rushdie never kept a diary, but in hiding "things were so complicated, and happened with such speed that I simply couldn't remember the daily details unless I wrote them down." The future book would be "the direct product of the fatwa," he said.

Two Kurdish rebel leaders killed

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Two Kurdish rebel leaders were among dozens of guerrillas killed in high-scale military operations in the mountains of southeastern Tunceli province, a security official said Friday. Senior guerrilla commanders Celal Barak, code-named Zeynel and Abdul Baki Bilge, code-named Selat, were killed on Oct. 22, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Turkish troops, with an air reinforcement, had combed the area where the Kurdish guerrillas were believed to have bases. More than 60 rebels were reported dead. Kurdish guerrillas have stepped up their attacks in the region lately, targeting school teachers and killing six of them in Tunceli earlier this month in a campaign to harm state-run Turkish education system. The guerrillas belong to the Kurdistan Labour Party, which has been fighting for autonomy since 1984. Nearly 13,000 people have been killed in the unrest. Turkish troops also killed 15 guerrillas Friday in several clashes in the provinces of Kars, Agri, Hakkari, Tunceli, Batman and Bitlis, the Anatolia news agency said Friday.

Rabin thanks Egypt for Mideast peace role

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Friday thanked Egypt for its role in helping to promote peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Government officials here said Mr. Rabin expressed gratitude to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, during a meeting with Egyptian Tourism Minister Mahmoud Al Beltaji. Mr. Beltaji noted that 12,000 Egyptian tourists had already visited Israel this year, compared with 5,000 last year. The minister, who arrived in Israel Wednesday via Jordan, earlier met Israeli President Ezer Weizman. In Cairo on Thursday Arab and Israeli tour operators decided to work to reduce the barriers between countries in the region. The meeting, organised by the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), brought together travel experts from 13 countries in the Middle East, including Syria, which has not yet resumed peace talks with Israel.

Demonstrations as Algerian singer buried

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's popular singer Cheb Hasni was buried Friday in his home city of Oran as hundreds of his young fans demonstrated in city-centre streets to protest his killing by suspected fundamentalists.

The crowd demonstrated in front of a city-centre cinema, chanting "Freedom and democracy for Algeria." The protests passed off without incident.

Earlier, thousands of the singer's admirers, still shocked at his killing less than 24 hours earlier, filed behind the funeral procession from his home to the Ain Al Beida cemetery, waving posters and record sleeves featuring their idol.

The singer was gunned down in a street close to his home on Thursday by unknown assailants. The security forces said the attack appeared to have been carried out by fundamentalists, who are fighting the military-backed Algerian regime.

Islamic militants have repeatedly condemned artists for allegedly anti-Islamic activities and threatened violence against those selling their work.

Hasni had built up a huge following, particularly among young Algerians, for his "Rai" songs, earning himself the nickname "Prince of Rai" among his fans.

Several dozen young people were taken to hospital overnight Thursday as grieving fans gave way to hysteria when fans maintained a vigil outside the dead singer's home.

The killing has heightened fears for the safety of kidnapped Berber singer Lounès Matoub, believed held by Islamic fundamentalists.

An icon of the 17-per cent Berber speaking minority in Algeria, Matoub has been an outspoken opponent of Islamic fundamentalism.

He was seized by a group of about 20 armed men in a cafe last Sunday, and nothing has been heard of him since. No one has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and family has had no contact with his kidnappers.

Algeria's President Liamine Zeroul said Friday he would pursue "with patience and determination" political talks to reestablish unity and prosperity in the country.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), one of the main



Cheb Hasni

groups leading the Islamic insurgency, last week refused to take part in the talks saying it needed time for its leaders to meet to discuss strategy after they were released from jail earlier in the month.

The FIS has been fighting the government since the military stepped in and cancelled the second round of January 1992 general elections the FIS was poised to win.

Meanwhile the security forces said they had killed 24 fundamentalists in security

operations around the country Thursday.

A total of 10 armed fundamentalists were killed in eastern Algeria, seven others in a villa near Annaba, in the far east, and six at Ksar Al Boukhari, 150 kilometres south of Algiers, the security sources said.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the military wing of the FIS, said it had suffered "major losses" during an attack by army helicopters at Tala Akba, near Blida in southern Algeria, according to its weekly bulletin released Friday.

The bulletin gave no further details of the date of the operation or of AIS losses, but claimed to have killed several security force personnel in the past week.

It said the group had killed four soldiers, including a captain, in the Blida region 40 kilometres south of Algiers. At Souma, another soldier was kidnapped at a road-block and later executed, it said.

The AIS also claimed to have kidnapped and killed a security force officer at Boufarik near Algiers, and killed a policeman in the capital's suburbs.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30	Un Petit Tour
18:00	Planète En Equilibre
18:30	Les Six Compagnons
19:00	News in French
19:15	On Location
19:30	The F.B.I.
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	You Be Your Life
21:10	Sherlock Holmes
22:00	News in English
22:30	House of Elton
23:10	Fly By Night
PRAYER TIMES	
04:08	Fajr
05:25	Sunrise (Sunrise)
11:25	Dhuhr
14:49	Asr
17:26	Maghrib
19:03	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweileh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637825	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 634328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and winds northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 18/29	
Aqaba 23/36	
Dumana 17/32	
Jordan Valley 24/35	
Yesterday's high temperatures:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
AMMAN 27, Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jihad Zaidan	881148
Dr. Mahmoud Hincid	898787
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi	778959
Dr. Sa'ad Ali	778285
Firas pharmacy	649192
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623072
Al Sadeh pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Akram Momani	248795
Alqas pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Mufid Damsi	985522
Khalil pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	611111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
Public Security Department	630331
Hotel Complaints	625800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewage	6641646
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Traffic Police	804350
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	615615
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Milbas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	645845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muasher	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/26
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	622405/0
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hana Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)772775
Be Al Nadhes Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

GUIDE AND CALENDAR

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Hospital 81831/372
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 6428/16

Aklich Maternity, J. Amn 6428/16

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafkas, J. Amman 636140
Petastine, Shmeisani 6461714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushri Hospital 67622719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612767
Al-Abhi, Abdali 66616466
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77711126
Yusif, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 632045/50
Amal Hospital 647155

ZARQA:
ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)980323
ZARQA National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)807332
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)909790

IRBID:
Princess Summa Hospital (02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775
For Al Natooz Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	..... Bangkok (RJ)
07:15	..... Aqaba (RJ)
08:00	..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:30	..... Jeddah (RJ)
09:00	..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15	..... Madrid (RJ)
09:25	..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:00	..... Beirut (RJ)
10:00	..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:25	..... London (RJ)
10:30	..... Paris (RJ)
10:35	..... Istanbul (RJ)
10:45	..... Athens (RJ)
10:50	..... Vienna (RJ)
10:50	..... Frankfurt (RJ)
10:50	..... Rome (RJ)
10:50	..... Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

Queen inaugurates Jordanian art exhibit in Rome

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurated the "Contemporary Art of Jordan: Conglomerations" exhibition in Rome Thursday, which displayed a rich and diverse collection from the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, said a Royal Court statement Saturday.

The selection of contemporary Jordanian art, which included works by ten leading Jordanian artists, demonstrated a medley of styles and approaches, including geometric and lyrical abstractions, realism, calligraphy and depictions of socio-political themes.

The exhibition was organized by the Jordan National Gallery in cooperation with the Egyptian Academy in Rome.

Queen Noor, patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts which founded the Jordan National Gallery in 1979, is an advocate of the art movement in Jordan and the region believing it a way to promote intercultural understandings.

This exhibition is one example of the various fields of cooperation between Jordan and Italy, which include art, archaeology, tourism, education and handicrafts.

Such cultural and artistic exchanges promote tourism, and in 1993, the largest number of European tourists to visit Jordan came from Italy, said the statement.

In her remarks, Queen Noor thanked the Royal Society of Fine Arts for their contribution in the organization of the exhibition and stressed the important contributions the Middle East region has



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inaugurates the "Contemporary Art of Jordan: Conglomerations" exhibition in Rome (photo by George Crystal)

made to the world saying, "whether as a consequence of ancient imperial contacts, trade, spiritual pilgrimage, or the fascination of ordinary travellers from new and different cultures, the people of our region of the world have always transcended the barriers of geography in order to exchange goods and ideas. In so doing, they have also fostered common human values that have radiated from the Mediterranean Basin to the four corners of the world."

The Queen spoke of the "long legacy of interaction among the cultures of the Mediterranean Basin" and the interchange of ideas describing their impact on contemporary Jordanian art.

"The first generation of Jordanian artists was

exposed to Western artistic expression through periods of study abroad, namely at the Academia Di Belle Arte in Rome and Florence in the 1950's" the Queen said.

She added, "these different influences were integrated within our culture and produced a synthesis of Arab and Western artistic traditions, which were to shape the modern art movement in Jordan."

Earlier, Queen Noor was guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by Italian President Scalfaro and Ms. Marie Anna Scalfaro. President Scalfaro welcomed the Queen saying her presence in Italy to inaugurate the exhibition is a mark of the strong cultural relations which exist between Italy and Jordan, and which date back thousands of years.

Calling Queen Noor "a

messenger of peace" the president beralded the new era of peace in the Middle East and its promise of development and prosperity in the region, and expressed his hope that Italy and Jordan would cooperate and contribute to a lasting peace, through "understanding among peoples... as human relations are the prerequisite for a lasting written document to be implemented."

Queen Noor was received by Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the National Gallery and the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Princess Nafaa Ali, Ambassador and Mrs. Giulio di Lorenzo Badia, the Italian chief of protocol and Ambassador and Mrs. Hassan Abu Nimeh, the Jordanian ambassador to Italy, said the statement.

Jordan, Malaysia open talks on scientific, economic cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Malaysia Saturday opened formal talks here, paving the way for the conclusion of several agreements covering scientific, cultural, technological and economic fields.

Visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who led his country's side to the talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, said the discussions were frank and constructive, covering bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

Malaysia is seeking to recruit a large number of Jordanian doctors, engineers and technicians to work in Malaysia, said Dr. Mahathir, adding that the excellent standards of Jordan's professional centres are what attracted Malaysia.

He said that there is a great deal of serious work to be done by the two sides, and this can mutually benefit the socio-economic development and management in both countries.

Dr. Mahathir said that his country was following with keen interest and concern the progress in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli track. Malaysia's future relations with the countries of the region depend to a great extent on the developments in the peace process, he said.

Referring to his delegation's talks in Jordan, the Malaysian premier said he hoped the discussions would further existing relations and promote economic and trade exchanges between both



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday discusses issues of mutual concern with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (Petra photo)

countries. Close cooperation between the private and public sectors in Malaysia has played a key role in boosting the national economy and attracting foreign investments, said Dr. Mahathir in outlining his country's economic development.

Jordan and Malaysia, he added, can benefit from each others' experience in privatisation especially in civil aviation, communications and energy, said the Malaysian premier, adding that such development in his country has resulted in major gains.

He suggested that Jordan and Malaysia exchange visits by officials, cooperate in trade fairs and promote cultural exchanges to advance bilateral ties.

Discussions at the meeting

covered potentials for joint ventures, maritime transport, industry, higher education, religious affairs and air transport.

Following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said the two countries plan to sign agreements Sunday covering bilateral cooperation in scientific, cultural, economic and technological fields, in addition to an accord that would prevent double taxation and encourage investments.

Mr. Rawabdeh said the two sides set up three specialised committees to discuss cooperation in tourism, education, transport, commercial exchanges and Islamic affairs.

Meanwhile, separate talks

were held between several Jordan and Malaysian officials on transportation, tourism and higher education, while the businessmen's delegation accompanying the Malaysian officials met at the Amman Chamber of Industry with Jordanian private sector representatives to discuss trade and industrial relations.

Also Saturday Dr. Mahathir visited the Martyr's Memorial in Amman where he toured the display on the development of the Armed Forces and the history of the Great Arab Revolt.

He also visited King Hussein Medical Centre, accompanied by Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan and other officials.

Dr. Adwan later accompanied the Malaysian premier on a visit to Jerash.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday receives visiting Pakistani Speaker of Parliament Yousaf Raza Gillani at the Royal Court. At right, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday receives Mr. Gillani for discussions on bilateral ties. Also attending the



meeting were Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammooh, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri and Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi (Petra photos)

Majali calls for creation of united Arab news agency

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day pan-Arab meeting to discuss the flow of news information among Arab states opened Saturday with a call by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali for the creation of a united Arab news agency.

The Arab states have more than 15 news agencies which lack intrinsic capabilities and depend on one another or on information provided by the international news agencies, said the prime minister in an address delivered on his behalf by Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad.

He said it is regrettable that all efforts exerted in the past towards unifying the work of the Arab countries' news agencies have gone in vain and the aspired objective seems to be out of reach.

Referring to Arabsat, Dr. Majali said the satellite organisation seems to have failed to serve its purpose of unifying information systems through a united news agency, but it is hoped that specialists attending the current meeting would contribute towards fulfilling this end, especially as the world is witnessing what he called an information revolution.

Jordan along with Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Morocco and Yemen are represented at the meeting which has been organized by the Information Ministry in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO).

The Prime Minister urged the specialists to try to bridge the technology gap with the advanced nations by coming up with ideas to ensure a better and unified system for the transfer of information among the Arab states.

Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Molla said in a statement that the delegates will examine obstacles to the flow of information among Arab countries, utilisation of modern technology in information fields, closer cooperation among Arab news agencies through Arabsat, Arab states' information policies and other related topics.

A working paper submitted to the first session by Isam Mousa of Yarmouk University said that unclear information policies in Arab countries, different Arabic dialects and illiteracy are among the main impediments to the free flow of information among Arab countries.



Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad Saturday deputises for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at a pan-Arab meeting of news agencies (Petra photo)

Visiting Pakistani parliament speaker concludes talks with leaders, officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting speaker of Pakistan's parliament, Yousaf Raza Gillani, today winds up a several-day visit to Jordan during which he met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials to discuss issues of common interest.

At a meeting held at the prime ministry Saturday, Dr. Majali and Mr. Gillani reviewed bilateral ties and discussed regional and international issues of common concern.

The Middle East peace process and the Israeli-

Jordanian talks were also discussed at the meeting, attended by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masri and Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammooh.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Dr. Majali as outlining to the Pakistani official Jordan's position with regard to the peace process and its quest to attain a lasting settlement.

Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi was present at the meeting.

The ambassador told the Jordan Times that Mr. Gillani's talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday covered bilateral ties and Middle Eastern questions.

The peace process was taken up earlier at talks between Mr. Gillani and the speakers of the Parliament when Mr. Gillani was quoted as saying that Pakistan and Jordan hold similar views with regard to the peace talks and coordination among Islamic countries in the face of challenges posed by rapid world developments. Mr.

Gillani and his hosts reviewed several issues pertaining to the democratic process and parliamentary affairs.

The Pakistani ambassador was present at the meetings, which were followed by a visit by Mr. Gillani to the Jordan Valley region where some 4-5000 Pakistani workers are employed in agricultural projects.

The ambassador said Pakistani labourers have been working in the region for the past 25 years and contributing to the development of the Jordan Valley.

TRADE TALKS: The Jordanian-Moroccan Economic Committee Saturday opens talks at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The two sides reviewed a number of obstacles to the free exchange of goods, and prepared for an agreement to be signed by the Moroccan and Jordanian ministers of industry and trade at the end of the three-day meetings. The committee will also prepare a list of commodities which can be exchanged by the two countries. The Moroccan team is headed by Minister Edris Hatto. (Petra photo)



WHAT'S GOING ON

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by poet Jamila Al Ajouri (accompanied by music played by Samir Al Sharif) at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "A Reading in the French-written Moroccan Drama" by Dr. Amin Al Zawi of Algeria at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Ceramics exhibition by Hameed Abdul Majeed at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Two exhibitions of abstract art by Ramzi Al Sayid and Mohammad Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Photography exhibition at the University of Jordan.

★ Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Wadhah Al Ward at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasti Tal Street (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'nd Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

★ Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).



CHANEL

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

Attempt to film sunken Baltic ferry delayed by weather

TURKU, Finland (R) — Bad weather Saturday delayed attempts to film the wreck of the ferry Estonia to establish whether its outer bow door broke off, causing it to sink with the loss of over 900 lives.

Finnish experts who found the wreck Friday in about 70 metres of water in the Baltic Sea said a ship carrying two remote-controlled underwater cameras, the Hali, was unable to leave harbour.

The wreck is believed to contain up to 800 bodies and crew who were unable to get off the ship when it capsized and sank in stormy seas in the early hours of Wednesday. There were 140 survivors, and around 90 bodies have been recovered.

"The Hali has not started," Kari Lehtola, head of the Finnish section of a three-nation Accident Investigation Commission told Reuters.

"There are difficulties with the weather. If it continues as stormy as this it is virtually useless to try, as it would be completely impossible to film," he said.

"We are looking at the weather the whole time and the ship is still in Turku Harbour."

Swedish investigators said Friday that the outer bow of the Estonia had been ripped

off, sending water flooding into the car and causing the ship to capsize and sink within minutes.

A Finnish expert located the wreck in the Gulf of Finland Friday using a sophisticated sonar device, but was unable to determine the state of the bow door.

Marine experts agreed that the loss of an outer door in the sort of stormy weather that raged early Wednesday when the Estonia went down on a voyage from Estonia to Sweden would have quickly rendered the ship unstable.

Denmark, Finland and Sweden all ordered urgent checks into the bow sections of roll-on, roll-off ferries.

Swedish engineers started inspecting all 46 ferries like the 15,500-tonne Estonia using Swedish water and maritime safety chief Bengt-Erik Stenmark said he would ban them if faults were found.

The Estonia went down off Utoe Island, southwest of Finland, in an area known as the Baltic Sea's "ship's graveyard" because of its treacherous currents. Many wrecks litter the seabed.

The head of the rescue operation, Raimo Tiliakainen, said the ship was lying on its left side, with the bow in 53 metres (175 feet) of water and the stern in 86

metres (280 feet), and it was sinking slowly into soft mud. He said he would not reveal the exact coordinates of the wreck to prevent outside divers trying to reach it. "If it is to be somebody's grave, we can't have people going there," he said.

The wreck was discovered by a search vessel carrying leading Finnish marine geologist Juko Naorteva, who said the ship's propeller was detected on his sonar system, but the condition of the bow section was not immediately clear.

Another search vessel was due to go to the site Saturday with two remote-controlled underwater cameras. "We hope to obtain some exact information on the condition of the wreckage," said Finnish investigator Tuomo Karpinen.

If the hull is accessible, Dutch salvage firm Wijnsum plans to send divers down to try to recover bodies of the hundreds of passengers trapped in their cabins as they slept.

But salvage experts said that raising the sunken ferry could be one of the toughest and most traumatic salvage jobs ever tackled, and might ultimately prove too costly.

Dick Fairbanks, a partner

in Florida-based Titan Maritime Industries, estimated a full salvage could cost up to \$25 million. He also said divers would face a psychological barrier in confronting the carnage as they explored the sunken ship.

"It is the most traumatic thing a diver ever does. Bodies are decomposing and it is just awful," he told Reuters, adding that his divers often taped up their masks and searched blind rather than face the dead.

The Swedish company co-owning the Estonia said its lifeboats had failed to do their job. Only 141 survivors lived long enough in rough cold seas to be picked up by rescue helicopters and ships.

About 85 people died in the boats in the sea, and survivors have described how fellow passengers died in waterlogged lifeboats.

"I can agree that the equipment was not doing its job since so many people died, but it is up to the rule makers and designers to look into this," Sten Forsberg, technical director at Swedish shipper Nordstrom Thulin AB, told Reuters.

"I am quite sure that the aftermath of the tremendous tragedy will result in stricter regulations for life saving equipment."

India frees 2 Kashmiri leaders; plans elections

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Saturday it has freed two Kashmiri leaders regarded by Western nations as key players in the Himalayan region's quest to settle a bloody dispute with New Delhi.

A spokesman for the Jammu and Kashmir state government told Reuters that Sayed Ali Shah Gilani and Abdul Ghani Lone were released from detention late Friday ahead of planned elections in the region, possibly before mid-1995.

"It is hoped that these two leaders would be able to give some direction to their followers," spokesman Ram Mohan Rao said.

Mr. Gilani, head of the pro-Pakistan Jamaat-I-Islami group, flew to Srinagar, Kashmir's winter capital, Saturday. He was apparently accompanied by Mr. Lone, head of the separatist People's Conference Party, Indian officials said.

The two men had been held without trial previously under tough anti-terrorist laws, but freed in May last year.

They were re-arrested last November when they led protests against an Indian army siege of Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine.

Mr. Rao said a third separatist leader, Shabbir Shah, was expected to be released soon. Mr. Shah has been in prison for 20 years, barring a brief period when he was released in 1989. He was jailed again the following year.

Hospitals and police have reported more than 17,000 deaths in Jammu and Kashmir, predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state, since January 1990, when simmering discontent against Indian rule erupted into armed revolt.

Kashmir has been ruled directly by Delhi since then and the election commission last month ordered a fresh review of the state's voters list, signalling New Delhi's interest in installing an elected government.

Western diplomats said the release of Mr. Lone and Mr. Gilani was an important move.

"We think that is really something very, very important to begin any political process in Kashmir," one said.

Diplomats said they were expecting Mr. Shah's release to follow shortly. But Mr. Rao was more cautious. "We are considering the release if it goes well," he said, indicating there possible hiccup.

Mr. Rao said the Indian government wanted to hold polls in Kashmir some time early next year but added that much would depend on Pakistan's attitude to the move.

India accuses Pakistan, against which it has fought two wars over divided Kashmir, of arming and training Muslim militants

Nigerian opposition leader arrested

LAGOS (Agencies) — Police arrested key opposition figure Gani Fawehinmi in Lagos early Saturday, fellow opposition leader Femi Fela told AFP.

Fawehinmi was planning to officially announce here Saturday the creation of a new opposition party despite the ban on political activity by the current military regime headed by General Sani Abacha.

All entrances to the building, where some 400 National Conscience (NC) supporters were due to hear their leader speak, were blocked off by police armed with assault weapons.

Traffic around the meeting hall in Anthony Village, in northern Lagos, was stopped and people not resident in the district were turned away. The NC seeks to abolish

poverty in Nigeria and to "take power by democratic means" so Moshood Abiola, the main opposition figure in Nigeria, can head a new government.

Moshood Abiola was arrested for treason on June 23, after he proclaimed himself president following elections in June, 1993, subsequently annulled by the military.

Dudayev accuses Russia of destroying Grozny airport

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — The president of the breakaway region of Chechnya accused Russia of destroying the city's only airport and causing heavy civilian casualties, a news agency reported.

"Russian troops dealt a rocket strike (at the airport) and a (nearby) town... destroying the entire airport building and parked planes. The runway also has been destroyed," said Dzhokhar Dudayev, as quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

He said the strike, reportedly carried out by four helicopters, caused "numerous casualties among the civilian population."

Mr. Dudayev's remarks contradict reports ITAR-TASS obtained from the Chechen police, who said rockets fired at the airport had no warheads and caused only minor damage.

Police also said there were

no casualties, ITAR-TASS reported.

According to opposition sources, government troops are using helicopter gunships to shell the village of Bratskoye in the opposition-controlled Nadterechny district of the breakaway Caucasus republic.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, declared his predominantly Muslim nation of 1.2 million independent in 1991. He claims Moscow, which backs the opposition, wants to destabilise Chechnya and justify an invasion that would bring it back into the Russian fold.

There have been numerous but conflicting reports about fighting between opposition forces and troops loyal to Mr. Dudayev near or even inside the regional capital of Grozny.

Palau ends status as U.N. trust territory

KOROR, Palau (R) — The Western Pacific Republic of Palau ended its status as the last U.N. Trust Territory Saturday and formally entered into a compact with the United States, President Kuniwo Nakamura said.

The compact of free association with the United States is a 50-year political, defence and economic treaty that gives Palau a greater degree of autonomy, which some observers tagged as "independence."

"We understand that with our new political status, comes new responsibilities. We seek friendship with all nations and pledge to abide by the rules of international law," Mr. Nakamura said in a speech after the flag of Palau was raised in a four-hour ceremony.

Palau has been a U.N. Trust Territory administered by the United States since World War II.

"We ask our neighbours to recognise our international borders and pledge to recognise theirs," he said before about 4,000 people including foreign dignitaries.

Under a compact with the United States, approved by Palau's voters in a referendum last year, the island will become self-governing with Washington retaining responsibility for external defence.

"It's my particular honour to end the period of trusteeship and the entry into force of our compact of free association," U.S. President Bill Clinton said in a letter to Mr. Nakamura, read by U.S.

Ambassador John Negroponte.

Mr. Negroponte is the American envoy to Palau and nearby Philippines. The island nation is 1,600 kilometres east of the Philippines.

"This compact, an agreement between long-time friends freely entered into, is an expression of the desire of our two countries to continue our long-term association, albeit as equal partners," Mr. Clinton added.

He assured the continuing support of the United States to Palau, which will receive nearly \$1 billion in assistance over the next 50 years.

Palau's 1bedul, or high chief, Yutaka Gibbons, the premier spokesman for the opposition, was not among the hundreds of local leaders in the Independence Day celebration.

"This is not independence," Chief Gibbons told Reuters in an interview. "This is just a celebration of the compact of free association."

Chief Gibbons said the compact was a U.S. law. "It's not a treaty. If something goes wrong with the U.S. economy, they could put a halt to it. If we do something they don't like, they can withdraw the law and they can amend it."

Mr. Nakamura said earlier he respected the rights of the opponents to the compact. "I would like to publicly ask them to join the majority's wish so once and for all we can put his issue behind us," he said.

Volcano erupts in Russia's Kamchatka

MOSCOW (R) — A powerful volcanic eruption, which experts described as a potential threat to air navigation in northern Pacific, began late Friday on Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka peninsula, ITAR-TASS news agency said Saturday.

It said Klyuchevskaya Sopka volcano was spewing ash 20,000 metres (65,000 feet) into the atmosphere. A plume of smoke from the volcano stretched 1,500 kilometres out over the Pacific Ocean, it added.

"The cloud of ashes may cause a threat for planes cruising on international lines connecting North America with South East Asian countries," TASS quoted experts from the Russian Academy of Science as saying.

Commercial airliners normally cruise at altitudes of up to 11,300 metres.

The experts said all information concerning the eruption was passed on to their U.S. colleagues in Alaska. They also said there was no immediate threat to the residents of villages situated around the volcano.

TASS said there had been only two similarly powerful eruptions in the recorded history of Klyuchevskaya Sopka — one in 1737 and another in 1945.

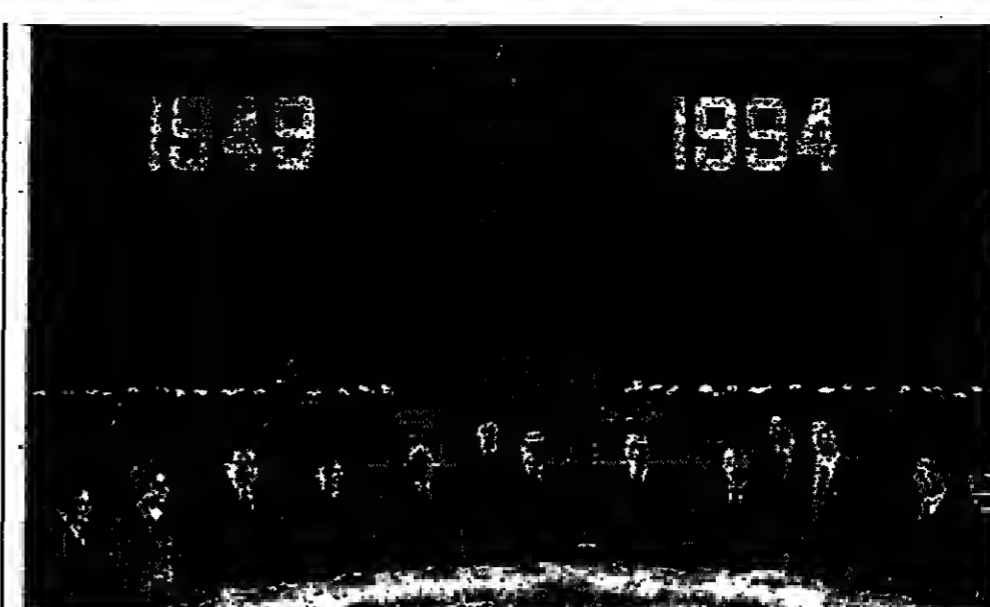
White House carefully choreographs Adams visit

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House is not about to roll out the red carpet for Irish Republican leader Gerry Adams when he visits Washington next week, but he won't get a complete brushoff either, U.S. officials said.

In a delicate piece of diplomatic choreography designed to encourage peace in Northern Ireland and avoid strains with Britain, the officials said some mid-level White House people were likely to meet Mr. Adams, probably at the State Department.

"We have to figure out how to do it in a responsible way, properly calibrated with all the forces we have to deal with on this issue — London, Dublin, the factions in Northern Ireland and the Irish-American community," one source said.

Mr. Adams, who heads Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, will be here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as part of a two-week, nine-city tour



Chinese leaders and foreign guests stand at attention as the Chinese national anthem is played during the National Day reception at the Great Hall of the People. From left are: Wife of Premier Li Peng, Zhu Lin; Queen Monique of Cambodia, NPC Chairman Qiao

China throws party for 45th anniversary

BEIJING (R) — China threw a party in Tiananmen Square Saturday to celebrate 45 years of the People's Republic, but the event was tightly policed and choreographed, underscoring the Communist Party's emphasis on stability.

Thousands of Chinese flocked to the vast square and numerous city parks to view elaborate floral displays, listen to musicians and watch dancers perform.

Oct. 1 is one of the most important holidays in the Chinese calendar, marking the anniversary of the day in 1949 when the revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung stood at the Gate of Heavenly Peace in front of the 100-acre (40-hectare) square and proclaimed the start of the Communist state.

Wary leaders raced across the capital to celebrations in guarded motorcades.

For many attending the displays and performances, National Day was a chance to reflect on how their lives had

changed because of economic reforms which have replaced much of Mao's Socialist structure with capitalist-style markets.

"It makes me proud to be a Chinese," said Zhang Mei, 36, a worker at the main government television station. These are the years of achievement. Compared with the past, the pace of reform today is much faster.

A man standing in a park near a portrait of the architect of China's reform process, 90-year-old Deng Xiaoping, agreed that the anniversary celebrations were equally in honour of the way Mr. Deng's ideas had transformed the country.

"This shows the results of liberalisation and reflects the changes across the country," said 43-year-old Xiao Genwang, a government worker.

To drive home the message, officials placed in the park a sculpture of three hands holding a copy of Mr. Deng's selected works.

The official press, filled for weeks with reports of China's achievements during the past 45 years, continued the theme of China's triumphant march towards the 21st century Saturday.

In the spirit of celebration, little mention was made of the many difficulties facing the country, including high inflation, bankrupt state enterprises and a growing gap between rich and poor.

Premier Li Peng, in his National Day address Friday night, declared that China would emerge victorious.

"Measures have already been taken to address these problems," he told about 3,000 guests in the Great Hall of the People.

"We have the confidence and the ability to overcome the difficulties and problems cropping up on the road ahead and push for continuous progress in China's reform and opening-up programme and its modernisation drive."

Aliyev says assassinations seek to undermine Azeri independence

NEW YORK (AFP) — Azerbaijan President Geidar Aliyev said the assassinations of two top officials were part of a plot to undermine the independence of the oil-rich former Soviet republic.

The assassinations Thursday of Shamsi Ragimov, head of a special intelligence service attached to the presidency, and Ahyadhin Dzhalilov, deputy speaker of Azerbaijan parliament, prompted coup rumours in Baku.

Mr. Aliyev, who has been attending the U.N. General Assembly debate, was leaving for Istanbul later in the day and expected to be back in Baku Saturday, Azerbaijan officials said.

Both murdered officials were "very close" to Mr. Aliyev, Foreign Minister Hassan Hassanov told AFP. Mr. Aliyev had been in contact with the Azerbaijan capital "and at this moment the situation in Baku is very stable and very normal," he said.

In Baku, officials also linked the killings to the signing of an oil exploration contract Sept. 20 with a consortium of western oil companies. Rus-

sia protested the signing. Parliament Speaker Rasud Guliyev, who spoke of a coup attempt in a televised speech, said the attacks sought to destabilise the country in the wake of the signing.

Mr. Hassanov declined to say what groups or countries might be involved but gave as one of their aims to weaken Azerbaijan in its conflict with neighbouring Armenia. He suggested their ultimate goal was to seize power, however.

"Firstly, these forces wanted to destabilise the situation in Azerbaijan; to weaken the power of Azerbaijan against the external aggressor; thirdly, after destabilising the situation it might have been the aim to take power," he said.

The Azerbaijan News Agency, Turan, cited informed sources as suggesting current Prime Minister Surat Guseinov, 34, might have a role in the movement.

Mandela makes 1st state visit to U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Four years ago, Nelson Mandela came to the United States as a freed political prisoner who was welcomed with a ticker-tape parade near Wall Street.

Today, Mr. Mandela is here again — looking for investments.

The country's first black leader, Mr. Mandela is bringing a simple message on this

trip: It's time to do business. Sanctions imposed against earlier South Africa governments because of their apartheid laws have since been lifted, and U.S. money now could help create jobs for millions of poor South Africans.

In an interview Thursday, Mr. Mandela said he would deliver his appeal for invest-

ments to foreigners who have for years refrained from doing business in apartheid South Africa. Victory by Mr. Mandela's African National Congress ended minority rule.

Mr. Mandela, 76, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year, has been praised for leading South Africa through a peaceful revolution.

One White House insider said Mr. Clinton has taken an interest in the issue ever since his student days at Britain's Oxford University in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The official said that Northern Ireland was also seen as a place "where we can achieve a certain measure of success using the tools of diplomacy rather than military force."

"We've been looking for that sort of opportunity in the post-cold war era and this is one of them," he said.

But U.S. politics also figure in the equation. Nearly 40 million Americans claim Irish descent, and many of them are concentrated in Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania — battleground states in Nov. 8 congressional elections.

Thirty-five Senate seats, 36 governorships and all 435 House seats are at stake. Republicans are expected to make large gains and could even win control of one or both houses of Congress from Mr. Clinton's Democrats.

In Massachusetts, where Senator Edward Kennedy faces the toughest reelection fight of his political career, 42 per cent of the population is Irish-American.

Actress Harriet Nelson hospitalised

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Harriet Nelson, the famed TV mother on The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, has been hospitalised for congestive heart failure, the Los Angeles Times reported. Mrs. Nelson, 85, was admitted to South Coast Medical Centre, her son, David, told the newspaper. "She has been basically stabilised," Mr. Nelson said. "Her heart is fine now."

Jackson calendar shows love for children

LONDON (AFP) — Michael Jackson's answer to his accusers is a calendar showing his love for the children of the world, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported Saturday. The tabloid carried a front-page picture of Jackson dressed as a scoutmaster surrounded by boy scouts from around the world, saying it was an exclusive preview of the 1995 Michael Jackson calendar (published by Danilo Calendars), which will be available next week. Other pictures in the calendar show the singer, who is fighting to bury child-molestation allegations, kissing and holding babies. "This is all Michael's idea. Some advisers suggested playing it low key, but Michael told them: 'No way — I am innocent. Children mean everything to me and I will not forsake them,'" the Mirror quoted an "insider" in the Jackson camp as saying.

Man arrested for kidnapping pigeons

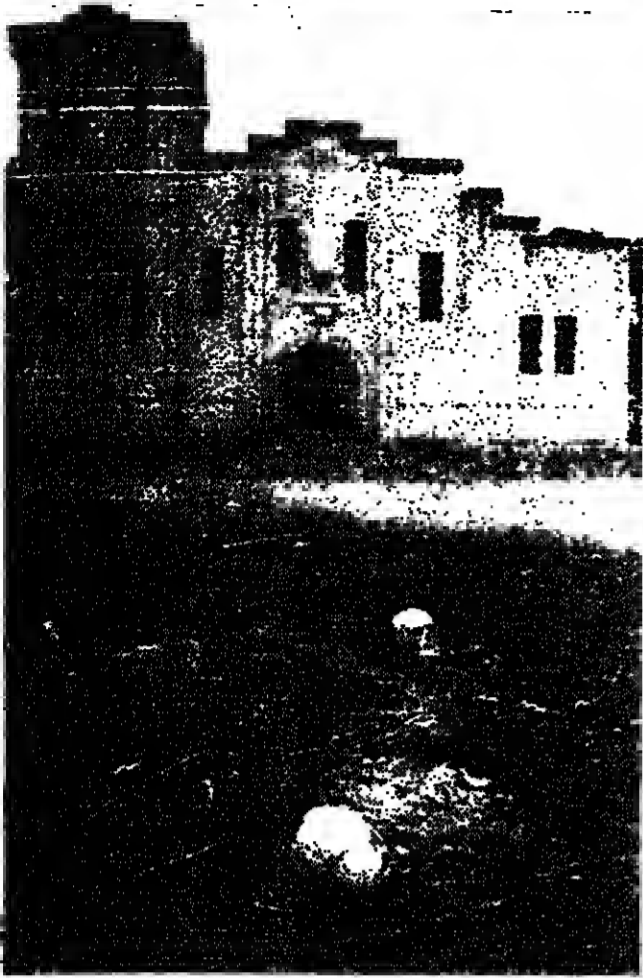
TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan police have arrested a man for kidnapping six pigeons and demanded a ransom of Taiwan dollar 1,000 (\$38) for each with threats to kill the birds, local newspapers said Saturday. Taxi driver Chen Yung-Chen, 34, used nets to capture the pigeons, which were trained for racing, and demanded money from their owners for their return, the United Evening News said. Pigeon racing is a popular sport in Taiwan and involves large amounts of money in gambling. One owner had paid on more than 10 occasions for the return of a particularly well-trained pigeon, the Evening News reported.

Vietnam tackles sex, drugs

HANOI (R) — Vietnam closed down more than 600 brothels and 740 drug dens in the first eight months of this year in a crackdown on "social evils," the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported Saturday. More than 2,000 prostitutes and 740 brothel owners were fined, and 5,800 prostitutes and 11,800 drug addicts were "treated," the agency said, without specifying what sort of treatment it meant. A growing number of prostitutes and drug addicts were receiving education and treatment at home, it added. Vietnam's Communist authorities are trying to tackle illicit sex and drugs industries that have grown in the big cities since the country opened up the economy and broadened its international contacts in the late 1980s.

Woman has 35 kg tumour removed from womb

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian doctors have removed a tumour weighing 35 kilograms from the womb of a woman in East Java, the Antara News Agency reported Friday. Antara said a team of doctors took two hours to remove successfully the tumour from Maimmah, 20, at a hospital in the Probolinggo district. Maimmah told doctors she had had the tumour for four years but had been afraid of having surgery.



Skulls, human remains and clothes of civil-war victims are scattered in front of the Catholic church of Nyarubuye, near the southeastern Rwandan town of Ugarama. Nearly one million Rwandans were reportedly killed during the war (AFP photo)

U.N. to clear Rwandan refugee camp of thugs

GOMA, Zaire (R) — U.N. officials went into crisis meetings Saturday with aid workers and a Zairean governor to seek ways to wrest control of a sprawling Rwandan refugee camp back from militia thugs.

Some 270,000 people live in the camp which up to 90 international aid workers were forced to abandon Friday when thugs from the refugee ranks took it over.

In the Rwandan capital of Kigali President Pasteur Bizimungu urged all displaced Rwandans in camps across the tiny central African country and refugees abroad to return home and live in peace.

U.N. officials in the eastern Zairean town of Goma said they were meeting aid agency representatives and the local Zairean governor to discuss the crisis in Katala camp, 50 kilometres to the north.

They said a delegation including the governor, aid agency officials and officers from the U.N. force in Rwanda would go to Katala for talks with leaders in an attempt to bring the camp under control so aid to its 270,000 residents could resume.

Aid agencies pulled all international staff out of Katala after extremist Hutu militiamen seized control of the camp and threatened workers.

Between 50 and 80 foreign aid workers who abandoned Katala drove north to the southern Ugandan town of Kabale for the night rather than risk passing through a string of camps on the road to Goma.

Katala camp is the furthest from Goma of the refugee centres set up to cope with a flood of nearly one million refugees from the Hutu majority who crossed from northwest Rwanda in July.

The camps are largely under the sway of former officials of the ousted Rwandan government and 28,000 troops and militia members who fled with civilian refugees. Hutu soldiers and militiamen are blamed for the massacre of an estimated one million people from April to July.

U.N. officials have repeatedly asked Zairean authorities to disarm the Rwandan soldiers and isolate them but Zairean army officers say they do not have enough men to tackle the task.

A delegation from the Kigali-based U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda is in Goma for talks with Zairean officials on the possibility of using U.N. troops to move the soldiers to a new site.

A Japanese military contingent to help the refugees arrive in Goma Sunday but Japanese officials have said they might withdraw their troops if security in the Goma area deteriorates.

The contingent — 290 from the army, 180 from the air force — is equipped with light weapons to be used only in self-defence.

Refugees beat to death a Zairean scout working for the U.N. refugees agency in Katala Wednesday night, surrounded and threatened aid workers and erected barricades in other camps.

In the Rwandan capital of Kigali, thousands of jubilant supporters gathered Saturday to hear Mr. Bizimungu call for national reconciliation and urge refugees in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania to come home.

"This is your country. Living elsewhere will not help the course of freeing it," Mr. Bizimungu said in his prepared speech.

He urged internally displaced people to return home to end the misery the long rains now underway would bring to the camps and to cultivate crops and stop living on food aid handouts.

He urged the international community to give his new administration cash to restore infrastructure destroyed or looted by the former government troops as they pulled back to Zaire.

Mr. Bizimungu also said an international tribunal had to be set up by the United Nations swiftly to put on trial those responsible for the genocide of Tutsis and Hutu government opponents.

He repeated denials of U.N. reports last week that troops of his Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) were systematically killing Hutus in revenge and said it was part of a campaign to discredit his government.

The rally was to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the start of a rebellion launched by the Tutsi-dominated RPF to topple President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose killing in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6 unleashed the mass slaughter.

Bosnia Muslims, Serbs agree to prisoner swap

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Muslims and Serbs agreed to exchange hundreds of prisoners of war Saturday in a move U.N. peacekeepers hoped would unblock aid to civilians.

Senior officers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) met Bosnian Serb leaders to plead for the reopening of Sarajevo Airport and the resumption of aid convoys which Serbs halted in retaliation for a NATO air strike.

The prisoner swap was part of a package agreed by both sides with the U.N. It also provided for medical evacuations from Muslim enclaves surrounded by Serbs and permission for U.N. doctors to go to them.

Bosnian Serbs demanded the release of prisoners held by the Muslim-led government in return for better cooperation with the U.N. aid effort on which 2.7 million people in Bosnia depend.

U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes said: "This agreement made provision for the first major release of POWs and detainees for over a year."

It did not cover the Bosnian Serb closure of the airport and a ban on U.N. aid convoys which peacekeepers said was beginning to affect Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. These may have to be resupplied by air.

General Sir Michael Rose, the UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia, discussed the convoy blockade with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale outside Sarajevo.

The U.N.'s aid mission, vital to civilians on both sides during the coming winter, has become entangled in a quarrel between the U.S. and its European allies over the use of NATO air power against the Serbs.

Washington wants the air option to be deployed more aggressively to punish Serbs for attacks on U.N. peacekeepers or Muslim safe havens under U.N. protection.

But each use of NATO warplanes has been followed by a hardening of Serb defiance.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA), which controls 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic, has allowed hardly any aid to move in Bosnia since the last attack a week ago.

U.N. peacekeepers committed to operating only through consent and negotiation have been powerless to force the issue.

Further evidence of disunity among Western powers emerged Friday when the U.S. claimed it had evidence a Yugoslav military blockade of Bosnian Serbs was being breached.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Paris believed the border blockade was being respected and noted in a pointed rebuff that "the Pentagon was not in charge of verifying" violations.

Bo Pellnas, head of a team of international civilians sent to monitor the Yugoslav-Bosnian border, refused to comment on the American accusation.

If Mr. Pellnas reports the border is leak free, the U.N. plans to start lifting sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia 2½ years ago for fomenting the Bosnian war.

The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Friday to extend the mandate of the 40,000 UNPROFOR troops in former Yugoslavia for another six months.

Croatia, one-third of whose territory is occupied by rebel Serbs in U.N. protected areas, wanted a shorter mandate.

Zagreb claims the U.N. ceasefire in Croatia effectively freezes in place Serb gains on soil where an independent

Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) has been set up.

RSK Serbs heavily-armed by Belgrade occupy a third of Croatian territory but account for only six per cent of the overall population.

Serb forces blocked a convoy of French U.N. peacekeepers from crossing the Bosnian border into Croatia early Saturday, a French U.N. battalion spokesman told AFP.

Twenty vehicles with 60 French U.N. peacekeepers were stopped at Maljevac, sixty kilometres (38 miles) northwest of the Muslim Bihać pocket in western Bosnia-Herzegovina. Major Jean-François Philippe said.

Battalion officers were trying to negotiate the convoy's passage with Serb representatives in Vojnick, a small Croatian town controlled by separatist Serbs.

The French peacekeepers had been heading for Rijeka, a large port in northwest Croatia, to load a boat with humanitarian equipment so Bangladeshi troops can relieve them of their post in Bihać.

Serb forces accuse French U.N. peacekeepers of favouring the Sarajevo government, which also toppled Muslim dissident leader Fikret Abdic in the Bihać pocket in August, and have regularly blocked their path.

Meanwhile Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said fear of losing the eastern enclave of Srebrenica to besieging Serbs forced the Bosnian government to climb down over lifting the U.N. arms embargo.

Lifting the weapons ban would have provoked an immediate withdrawal of Dutch U.N. troops protecting the U.N.-declared safe haven and left its 44,000 inhabitants prey to attack by Bosnian Serb forces, he said.

Bosnian officials announced the reversal on the embargo issue in New York Monday following talks



Women and children wait with jerry-cans for water which arrives via tanker trucks. After 15 days, water finally began to flow again in Sarajevo but only for the hospital and other priority points (AFP photo)

2 Koreas build up military hardware

SEOUL (Agencies) — The two Koreas, confronting each other across their cold war divide, have both been building up military hardware amid tension over the North's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said Saturday.

In a defence white paper, the ministry said the South had increased its number of tanks by 150 to 1,950 and armoured vehicles by 200 to 2,100 over the past year.

North Korea had maintained its number of tanks at 3,800 and its armoured vehicles at 2,500.

Both Koreas had beefed up field artillery capability with the South increasing its number of field guns by 100 to 4,600 and the North by 500 to 10,800, the paper said.

In April the United States sent Patriot air defence missiles to South Korea to guard against possible missile attack by the North.

It also sent Apache attack helicopters to South Korea to replace aging Cobra helicopters.

North Korea has variations of the Scud missile and is capable of producing 100 to 150 of them a year, the paper said.

The North is known to have successfully test-fired the "Rodong-1" missile with a range of up to 1,000 kilometres which is capable of striking central Japan.

While it was presumed that the North possesses nuclear materials it is not clear if it had produced nuclear weapons, the paper said.

North Korea has been refusing to allow inspections of

its nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

The South Korean ministry said there had been no changes in the size of the two Korean armed forces over the past year with the South having 655,000 troops and the north 1.03 million.

North Korea had deployed 65 per cent of its armed forces to forward positions as far south as the demilitarised zone dividing the peninsula in a bid to maintain its ability to launch a surprise attack, the paper said.

South Korea had built one submarine over the past year increasing its total to two while the North has 26 of the vessels.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said here Saturday there would be "no winners or losers" in the process of North-South Korean unification, but that it was the only path for the Korean people.

Speaking at a massive military ceremony marking the country's Armed Forces Day at Seoul's air force base, Mr. Kim called on all Koreans not to swim against the tide of history, but to "rise to the challenge of unification."

Some 12,000 army, navy marine and air force troops and hundreds of tanks, mobile artillery pieces and jet fighter planes were mobilised for the parade, which was resurrected here for the first time in four years amid lingering tensions on the peninsula.

"We must rise up to the challenge of unification," said Mr. Kim.

Italy's leading graft judge to

MILAN (R) — Antonio Di Pietro, Italy's most famous anti-graft judge, is himself being investigated by fellow magistrates after a man he sent to jail accused him of slander and abuse of office, judicial sources said Saturday.

Lawyers for financier Sergio Cusani filed the complaint against Judge Di Pietro in the northern city of Brescia, forcing magistrates there

to put their fellow judge on a list of people being investigated.

The procedure is routine in Italy when a complaint is filed in which someone is accused of breaking the law.

This is far less significant than a judicial warrant, which magistrates issue after they have investigated a complaint and suspect a crime may have been committed.

Judge L. Cusani has spearheaded a year-long judicial crusade against political and economic corruption, was the public prosecutor at a trial that sentenced Cusani to eight years in jail last April.

The financier was convicted of channelling huge bribes from Italy's Ferruzzi foods-to-chemicals group to politicians.

Investigated

Cusani's lawyers have accused Mr. Di Pietro of slandering the financier during the trial and disregarding evidence they said could have helped the defence.

Editorials in several Italian newspapers Saturday said the filing of the complaint against Judge Di Pietro could be part of an attempt to hit back at the magistrate and discredit him.

India cranks up bid to ease world plague fears

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Saturday it had begun medical checks on all departing air passengers as part of a sharply cranked up bid to convince foreign governments it would not spread its plague outbreak across the world.

It also invited foreign journalists to come to India at Indian expense to see for themselves that 50 deaths in a population of 900 million people was no cause for panic as more governments took tougher action to quarantine India.

"The plague does have a middle age image, but it is easily curable when detected and properly treated," Cabinet Secretary Surendra Singh told reporters. "It's not so serious as to stop people travelling and moving about."

The number of suspected cases in the seven of India's 26 states hit by the plague rose to 2,566 Saturday, up from 2,400 Friday, said senior health officials who added that the number of confirmed cases was not immediately available.

They also reported two more deaths in New Delhi Saturday that could have been from plague. They said a 35-year-old woman died shortly after giving birth and a 22-year-old man died in the same infectious diseases hospital.

Only tests, which can take up to four days, would prove whether or not they had died of plague, the officials said.

Two people died in New Delhi earlier this week of plague, the first reported deaths in the capital.

Almost all the other deaths were in the early days of the outbreak in Surat, on India's west coast, prompting a mass exodus of some 300,000 people to Bombay and across north India.

The health officials said there had been no deaths in Surat for four days and life was returning to normal there, with some factories reopening and some of those

comprehensive plan aimed at curbing the spread of the plague which has left an estimated death toll of 50 in western India (AFP photo)

A policeman directs traffic in Surat city with his nose and mouth covered. The Indian government announced that state health secretaries would meet in New Delhi to draw up a

one badly affected," he said. "We may not be as efficient as the United States, but in disaster management we have experience and we have faith in our system to deal with the problem," he added.

With some governments barring all Indians, suspending flights and banning shopping — especially in the Gulf where millions of Indians work — India offered free travel and hospitality to foreign journalists.

"We want them to report back in their country what they see here," a tourism official said.

Severed links and cancelled vacations have embarrassed New Delhi and hit trade, and senior officials said Saturday that nervousness had spread to business travellers who were now beginning to postpone plans to visit.

The plague outbreak could hurt India's efforts to attract foreign investment, will certainly damage tourism income of over \$1.0 billion a year and trade with Gulf states.

next two days and then taper off. The World Health Organisation has said the outbreak would be over in three weeks.

The plague outbreak took doctors by surprise, a top official said Saturday.

A senior Health Ministry official said India's rat population — host to the flea which passes the plague on to humans — was under constant surveillance.

"Tens of thousands of rats are analysed each year in a permanent process," he said. "Where we find them positive for plague, the nests are sprayed and the rats killed."

He said that on a yearly average only some 150 positive cases were identified.

Meanwhile Pakistan port authorities Saturday ordered all ships coming from India quarantined for clearance by health inspectors to prevent the spread of plague from the neighbouring country.

An official announcement said the Karachi Port Trust had ordered that all ships coming from any port in India must anchor 16 to 19

Meciar ahead in Slovak elections — exit poll

BRATISLAVA (R) — Former Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar emerged the clear winner Saturday after Slovakia's general elections, but fell well short of an absolute majority, according to an exit poll.

Slovak Radio said its exit poll, taken two hours before voting ended, gave Mr. Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) a surprisingly strong 31 per cent of the vote after two days of polling.

Mr. Meciar, a flamboyant nationalist twice deposed as Slovak premier, seemed to have taken more votes than predicted by opinion polls at

The common choice group led by the Party of the Democratic Left, the reformed Communists, came second with 12.3 per cent, well short of the 18 per cent pre-election polls had forecast.

First official results are expected Sunday. A total of 17 parties contested the elections, the first since Slovakia split from the Czechoslovak Federation last year.

Whatever the final outcome, Mr. Meciar's chances of making a comeback depend on whether he can pull together a coalition from Slovakia's fractious parties.

Ivan Gasparovic, outgoing HZDS speaker of parliament, said the results are only preliminary. "We'll see when the final results come and then the big coalition negotiations will start. I don't know how it will go."

Meciar's enemies, many of them former allies who walked out in disputes over policies and personalities, have denounced him as an extremist. President Michal Kovac warned voters that foreign investors might turn their backs on the infant nation if Mr. Meciar returned to power.

Mr. Meciar was last ousted when he lost a parliamentary

coalition led by Prime Minister Jozef Moravcik and including the reformed Communists.

Mr. Moravcik's centrist Democratic Union took 9.8 per cent of the vote, according to the exit poll, in line with expectations.

An administrative blunder meant Mr. Meciar was unable to vote Friday, but he finally did so Saturday. Fresh controversy arose, however, when officials accused state television of breaking election laws for its coverage of Mr. Meciar's protest.

Voting fell into disarray Friday because the names of Mr. Meciar and two other

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Market of unorthodox ideas

ISRAELI LABOUR Deputy Haggai Merom's proposals for overhauling his party's platform so that clauses opposing the creation of a Palestinian state or rejecting any withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be dropped sounds as the quid pro quo for calling on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to drop language in its charter that suggests that Israel should be destroyed or dismantled. For the time being, Mr. Merom's ideas appear to be held mainly by a maverick group in the Israeli political system who are outraging not only the Likud Party but also the mainstream current of their own party. Yet the fact remains that Mr. Merom has some credentials to speak out on his party's thinking on issues of peace in the region, having been appointed by no other than Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to head a committee to reorganise the Labour Party from head to toe. Mr. Merom's thoughts must also be viewed against the backdrop of "defections" from the Labour Party in support of the Likud's posture on the Syrian occupied territory. Labour Deputy Avi Yehzekel and others have joined hands with Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in demanding that a referendum be held before any decision is taken on the Golan Heights or better still that no less than 70 members of the Knesset support any withdrawal from the Heights before Mr. Rabin could be empowered to make a deal with Damascus on the issue.

On the other side of the fence sits the liberal Meretz Party whose platform on the peace process supports the thinking of Mr. Merom and all those factions which share his perspective, albeit silently for the time being.

What all these developments in the Israeli body politic suggest is that considerable political changes are occurring in Israel in preparation for next year's general elections. In parallel with the dramatic changes within the Arab camp, Israelis are bound to mend their ways and their outlook vis-a-vis comprehensive peace with the Arabs. Whether Mr. Merom's bold submissions will ever see the light of day is something that only the future can tell. But the fact is that progressive ideas by Israeli politicians will give ammunition to those in the PLO who have to spearhead the fight for amending their organisation's charter. Words may not be enough to introduce radical changes on the ground in the region, but recent history shows that nothing happens, at least in Israel, before floating unorthodox ideas.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday drew attention to a statement issued following His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Aqaba, saying it carried no sign that a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan is imminent. Taher Adwan said that the scheduled meeting in Washington Monday between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, was therefore not expected to result in a peace treaty as some Israeli media reported. It is quite reasonable to think that no treaty is in sight because none of the Jordanian demands have been met and issues like water rights, borders and usurped territory remain outstanding, said the writer. It would be wise for Jordan to avoid falling into the trap of any treaty with Israel before the latter responds favourably to the Kingdom's rightful

AHMAD MISLEH, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, Saturday said the occupied Syrian heights constituted the main bone of contention between Israel and the Arabs in general and Israel and Syria in particular. It seems that a settlement of the Golan dispute holds the key to a permanent peace between the Arabs and Israel and, therefore, the Arabs ought to back Syria's position and refuse to allow the Americans and the Israelis to impose their own ideas in this matter, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

General census wrong reasons

NORMALLY, a general census has to be undertaken at least once every 10 years as a base for essential information regarding the population and houses and to keep policy makers informed. The last census was conducted in Jordan in 1979, over 15 years ago. A new census was therefore overdue and a general census was painstakingly planned to take place in November 1994. Full preparation for this major event was made, including the assignment of numbers to every house in the country, forms were written and printed and large numbers of young men and women were recruited and trained extensively for the complex job. Suddenly, the Department of Statistics told the press that the census was called off for the time being, so that no one may think that the census is related in any manner to the current peace process.

What a great wisdom and political prudence! The Department of Statistics, or whoever has made this strange decision, has recorded a historical victory over the wicked plot which was about to unravel, namely the crime of getting ready for the peace process by using scientific methods to collect accurate data and make a full count of the population. The opposition must have caught the government red-handed in getting ready to negotiate properly, and the government did not fail to prove them wrong!

In the absence of correct information on population, houses, income distribution, jobs, unemployment, dependency, age grouping, internal and external migration etc., the economic and social planner, or the decision-maker would act like a man with folded eyes walking or running in the darkness without seeing his way. The outcome is of course inevitable. Yet the Jordanian decision-makers decided to close their eyes so that they cannot see the facts or act on them.

I don't know who, under the sun, accused the government or, for that matter, the Department of Statistics of

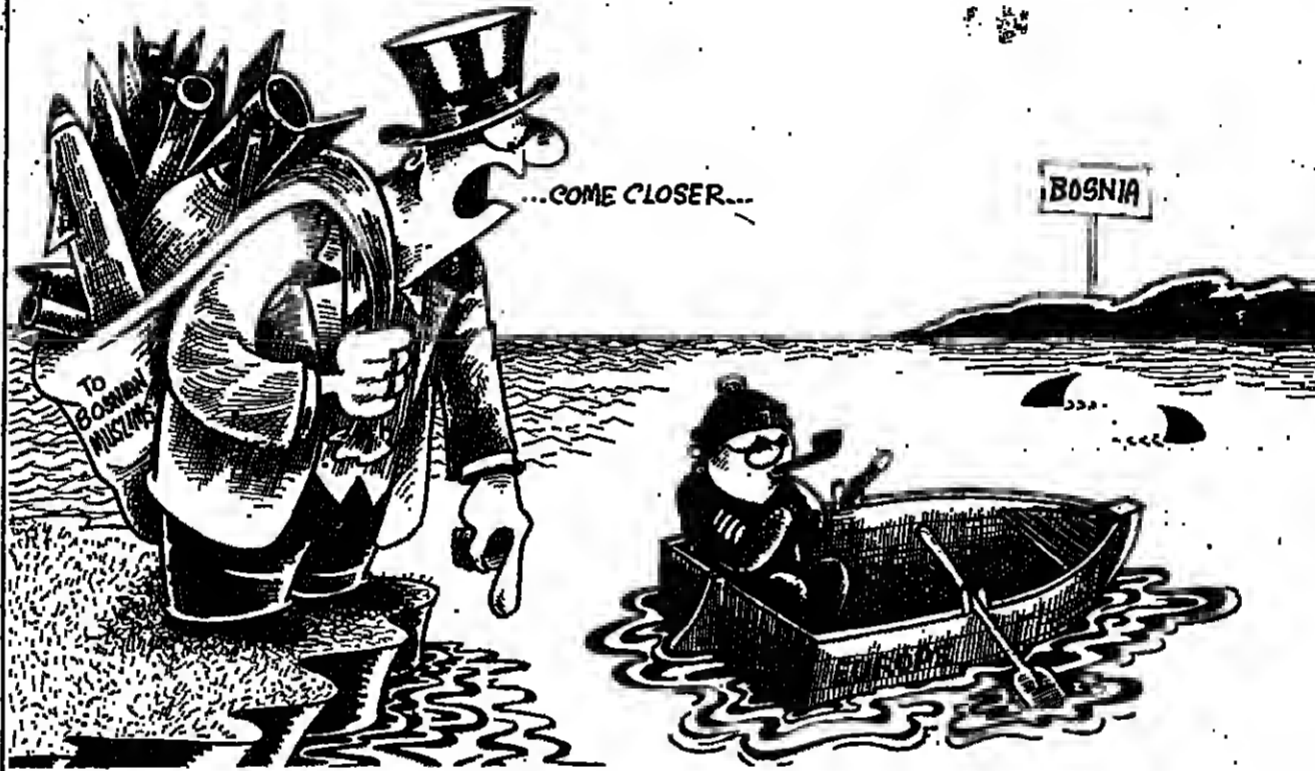
planning a census to serve the peace process. Most likely no one did. This excuse is a poor invention of the genius mind who made the decision to cancel the census and could not imagine a justification better than to prove that an untrue assumption is in fact untrue, killing the long awaited census in the process instead of simply denying the charge or any unfair interpretation, if they ever existed.

However, let us assume for a moment that the planned census was in fact related to the peace process. What is wrong with that? Is it so bad and a serious mistake to try to collect all the information that may help us get our internal house in order and plan for the future in the light of solid facts.

Let us go even further and make the worse of assumptions, that the purpose of the census was to count and prepare lists of the Palestinian refugees of 1948 and the displaced Palestinians of 1967 so that Jordan can claim the right of return in favour of the second group and in compensation in favour of both groups for property in Israel, and to request possible compensation for Jordan against the huge burdens of accommodating both groups. What is wrong with that?

If it is true that the census is related to the peace process, then the Jordanian government must be commended for its farsightedness and its proper readiness to the negotiation process. In this case the cancellation of the census is a valuable service to Israel and a blow and a disservice to the Palestinian cause. Calling off a census related to the peace process is a step to call off the claims of Palestinians residing in Jordan to get their right of return to the West Bank and Gaza and to receive fair compensation for property left behind in 1948. Ignorance, it seems, continues to be the leading guide of our steps. The census should proceed as originally scheduled. We should not yield to unfounded charges.

M. KAHIL



A year after uprising, Yeltsin leads a changed Russia

By Larry Ryckman
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A year after he called out tanks to save his government, President Boris Yeltsin leads a changed Russia.

It has a new constitution, a new parliament and something really new: emerging signs of hope. Russia is experiencing the first semblance of political and economic stability of Mr. Yeltsin's three years in office.

Many old problems remain and life is still grim for millions who have suffered since the Soviet Union sputtered to an end in 1991. Opposition leaders plan to renew attacks on the government this fall, and as always, anything could happen. But there are increasing indications of a turnaround, from scores of dazzling, newly renovated buildings in Moscow to lower inflation.

A small middle class is appearing, with money to spend on Japanese televisions, foreign vacations and pyramid schemes. The paralyzing power struggles between the legislative and executive branches, between the central government and far-flung regions, have subsided.

At the same time, it is easy to point to opportunities missed and promises broken since Mr. Yeltsin disbanded the old parliament on Sept. 21, 1993.

Most judges date from

Soviet days. Police always get their man, or at least their conviction: At least 90 per cent of people arrested are found guilty, compared with an estimated 60 per cent in the United States. Anatoly Krasikov, a Yeltsin spokesman, acknowledged that "it will take longest to reform this branch."

Many old problems remain and life is still grim for millions who have suffered since the Soviet Union sputtered to an end in 1991. But there are increasing indications of a turnaround, from scores of dazzling, newly renovated buildings in Moscow to lower inflation.

Another omission was early presidential elections. When he dissolved the old parliament, Mr. Yeltsin said he favoured early elections. His aides spoke of holding them in June 1994. Now they talk of holding simultaneous presidential and legislative elections when Mr. Yeltsin's term expires in 1996.

The lack of public outcry may reflect the changed political atmosphere. Since the strong showing by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and other nationalists in December's parliamentary elections, Mr. Yeltsin has toned down reformist and pro-Western rhetoric, although neither economic nor foreign policy has changed significantly.

He has been much more assertive in dealing with the West, particularly on the former Yugoslavia, but at the same time joined the NATO Partnership for Peace and pulled remaining

troops out of Germany and the Baltic states. The government even ignored protests by nationalists and welcomed 250 American soldiers in September to joint exercises on Russian soil.

Young reformers enlisted to transform the economy into a market system are gone, a development their

ly expressing hope in other ways, by saving money and planning two or three months ahead. Two years ago, when annual inflation was 2,000 per cent, neither was possible.

"Life has become better and calmer now, no doubt about that," said Antonina Kalesnikova, a 44-year-old engineer shopping for a new television. "There is stability today."

Despite the changes, Mr. Yeltsin and lawmakers — like presidents and parliaments everywhere — still have plenty of differences. But now, because of the new constitution, the president is in a much stronger position.

When lawmakers objected to his privatisation programme, for example, Mr. Yeltsin overruled them with a decree. If things really get out of control, the president has the power to dissolve parliament.

The opposition remains largely fractured. Leaders of last year's uprising were freed from jail under an amnesty approved by the new parliament, but have not attracted much support. Hardliners now grumble about public apathy.

There is little enthusiasm for Mr. Yeltsin, either. Many Russians are tired of politics altogether.

"The temperature and mood of society attest to depoliticisation," former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets. "People, I think, have turned toward their own lives, toward their own problems."

"This gradual stabilisation of life," he predicted, "will determine the future. Political struggles will be concentrated in parliament."

U.S. increasingly isolated on Bosnia

By Kurt Schork
Reuters

SARAJEVO — The United States has failed in its efforts to persuade European allies to get tough in Bosnia by lifting the arms embargo on government forces and punishing Serbs with NATO airstrikes, diplomatic sources said on Friday.

"Even the Bosnian government feared what would happen in the short-term if the arms embargo were lifted," said a Western diplomat in Sarajevo, who asked not to be named.

"NATO nations listened politely to the Americans in Spain this week, but there was no agreement to do anything concrete. Britain, France and Russia are controlling policy on Bosnia, not the United States. The Americans are alone on this."

U.S. President Bill Clinton argued Bosnia's right of self-defence and the need for NATO to be more vigorous in striking Serb forces when they violate U.N. resolutions.

But American rhetoric has not been backed by diplomatic clout or military muscle sufficient to persuade traditional European allies to fall into line.

After nearly two years in office, Mr. Clinton is widely regarded as the weakest American president on foreign policy since World War II. Friends and foes alike have taken advantage of that weakness to steer their own course.

Britain and France, who have thousands of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, complain that Mr. Clinton talks tough but refuses to send U.S. forces to share the risk his policies would generate.

When Mr. Clinton vowed to ask the U.N. Security Council to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia if rebel Serbs had not accepted the latest international peace plan by Oct. 15, Britain, France and Russia teamed up in vocal opposition.

They said the move would plunge Bosnia into full-scale war and necessitate a U.N. withdrawal. The Bosnian government, having already lost 70 per cent of the country to better-armed Serbs, wor-

ried that if the U.N. drew it might be over before a new weapon and training could take effect.

Bosnia rescued Mr. Clinton from himself. In U.N. this week by opposing the lifting of the arms embargo, he was able to avoid a face-saving exercise for six months.

Britain, France and Russia saluted Bosnia but little doubt they would oppose lifting the embargo next year.

U.S. efforts to use its position as senior partner in NATO to force the pace of events in Bosnia fared little better this week than the arms embargo initiative.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, attending a NATO meeting in the Spanish city of Seville, pushed for massive use of air power to punish Serbs for flouting the will of the international community.

"When we go in, I want to go in with compelling force, enough to make it clear there is a heavy price to pay for violating the rules that NATO has established," Mr. Perry said.

The American position, well-known within NATO circles, prompted sympathetic noises from a number of member nations, but resulted only in agreement to improve coordination with the U.N.

Most diplomatic analysts say nothing will come of the matter because the United Nations, not NATO, retains control over when, where and what to hit with air strikes in Bosnia.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the U.N. commander in Bosnia who must initiate requests for air support, believes negotiation, not bombing, is the key to progress in Bosnia.

"The U.N. has been charged with resolving this mess and we're committed to a policy of negotiation with proportional force and when all else fails," a U.N. official, who asked not to be named, said on Friday. "If NATO or the United States were to send in ground troops to fight a war here they would be in a better position to dictate policy. Until that happens NATO is here in support of a peacekeeping mission. It's not time for the big stick yet."

LETTERS

The media that we need

To the Editor:

I HAVE read with interest your coverage of the seminar "The Role of the Media in a Democracy — The Case of Jordan." I salute all participants for their papers and insights.

My only remark on the subject is that I have always felt strongly about the lack of our efforts by media to analyse, translate and report the message of the regime to the man in the street. We are used to reading with quite interest publications like, the International Herald Tribune, the Christian Science Monitor and others analysing, for example a speech by His Majesty inside and specially — outside Jordan and giving opinions on it, while our papers fail to translate what His Majesty is trying to say. It has always been funny when I read His Majesty's speeches and find out that they are being censored by our own papers.

I wish the day would come, when I do not have to read such foreign publications to understand my King.

Metri Twal,
Amman.

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

I CONGRATULATE you on the long article giving a true description of the first and second session of the conference on "The Role of the Media in a Democracy — The Case of Jordan" on Sept. 27.

On page 1 you write "...of the seminar, organised by the Centre of Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, and funded by a grant from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a German institution..."

May I draw your attention to the fact that the Konrad Adenauer Foundation does not understand its activities as mere funding, and that, in fact, we have contributed to establishing the programme as well as to organisational aspects.

I would appreciate your taking this observation into consideration in any future reporting concerning our organisation.

Hubert Dobros,
Director,
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Prince Mohammad turns 54 today

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday celebrates his 54th birthday.

Born in Amman on Oct. 2, 1940, Prince Mohammad received his elementary education at the scientific Islamic College and then pursued his academic studies in Switzerland and Britain. In 1956 he joined the military college in Baghdad for one year.

Prince Mohammad acted as regent on several occasions. On Nov. 11, 1973 he was appointed personal representative of King Hussein.

Prince Mohammad has assumed several posts including the presidency of the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971 and the presidency of the Higher Tourism Council in 1972. He is president of the



Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid in March 1981. He has two sons, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ghazi.

King holds talks with Mahathir

(Continued from page 1)

recently banned by the Malaysian government is the Al Arqam. The government's decision to outlaw the Al Arqam movement is because of its deviationist teachings which are glaringly against the very fundamentals of Islam.

"Malaysia has been following with keen interest the recent developments in the West Asian region and we are indeed encouraged by the series of historic breakthroughs in the peace process. With the establishment of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as well as the Jordan-Israeli declaration on the end of hostilities, I hope the stage will be set for a full reconciliation in West Asia through the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace between the Arab States, the Palestinians and Israel.

"The peace accord is a solid step in a region battered by conflicts for more than half a century. The international community has a responsibility to make it succeed. I hope there will be extensive international participation in the social and economic development of the territories that have lan-

guished on account of international neglect."

Dr. Majali said earlier: "We in Jordan view the developmental active movement in friendly Malaysia with appreciation and respect. Malaysia has witnessed, through the ambitious programmes initiated by your excellency in recent years, a glamorous renaissance in all fields, and the Malaysian movement of development and construction has become a raw model to be followed deserving appreciation."

"Ancient as well as recent history has proven that the only sure way to let the energies of creativity loose, utilize achievements and shape societies that can live their presence in dignity and foresee the future in optimism and hope, is to guarantee man's rights and freedoms. Springing from this fact, we in Jordan insisted on restoring democracy in our country, a process which was absent from Jordan due to conditions against our will. Our two countries are living an experience that has a lot in common; in the fields of practising democracy, political pluralism, and guaranteeing human rights and freedoms, against a sense of belonging to an immortal heritage and the emphasis of our firm values."

Israel ready to withdraw

(Continued from page 1)

Majali said "the Arab right to these islands is crystal clear." He noted that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) openly declared that it was ready to discuss the issue by peaceful means and negotiations to reach an acceptable and satisfactory solution.

"The other party is still showing intransigence which does not benefit any one," Dr. Majali said.

Commenting on Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries, Dr. Majali disclosed that "a series of meetings and visits are due soon with these

states."

"Relations have recently witnessed tangible improvement," said the prime minister, recalling his recent meeting with Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, the UAE president, and the meeting held in New York last week between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal in the presence of Prince Bandar Ben Abdul Aziz, the Saudi ambassador to the United States.

These meetings, Dr. Majali said, were all warm and extremely cordial.

GCC ends boycott

(Continued from page 1)

those companies or are subsidiaries of them. The primary part relates to direct trade with Israel.

Mr. Christopher explained the GCC statement by saying: "There is a commitment from the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council no longer to enforce the secondary and tertiary aspect of the boycott and not to discriminate against American companies."

There was no official comment in the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — and official news agencies reported the ministers' meeting with Mr. Christopher but did not mention the boycott moves.

The head of Israel's chambers of commerce, Dan Gil-

berman, said the lifting of the boycott would bring new investments to Israel and boost Israeli exports.

"Since the establishment of the state to this day the economic damage to the state (by the embargo) has been a total of \$40 billion in investments and Israeli exports," Mr. Gillerman said in a statement.

"With the lifting of the secondary boycott now a new era has opened for investments in Israel and it presents new possibilities for Israeli export."

"Lifting the boycott will encourage multi-national companies in Europe and the Far East to invest in Israel and develop new markets that were heretofore closed to Israel, especially in high-tech, science, medicine and others."

Sarid: Settlers may be moved

(Continued from page 1)

cluded against moving out the settlers, reportedly fearing at the time that his fragile government would not be able to withstand massive right-wing street protests.

But Mr. Sarid said Saturday that once troops pull out of Hebron and other Palesti-

by the autonomy accord, the government should take another look at the Jewish enclaves in Hebron.

"It is very possible that this particular issue of the Jewish settlement in Hebron must be brought before the government to be discussed again

Palestinian life decays in Jerusalem's old city

By John West

Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Teenage Palestinians with shaved heads and tattooed arms sit smoking on the steps of a 16th-century mosque that is slowly falling to pieces. At least one of the gang is high on drugs.

Children play hide-and-seek in the rubble of centuries-old houses that have caved in on themselves while the stench from piles of rubbish, damp rot and dried urine wafts out of a warren of alleyways.

For Palestinians, life is grim in Jerusalem's old city, holy to Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

The plush Jewish quarter, developed since Israel conquered the old city in the 1967 Middle East war, boasts dozens of synagogues and Jewish institutes, neat, tree-lined squares and some of the most expensive real estate in the world.

Rich Jews from around the world snap up luxury apartments overlooking the Wailing Wall.

But many of the city's 25,000-odd Palestinians are leaving the city they venerate as the heart of their nation in droves. Most move to newer Arab suburbs of East Jerusalem, or even beyond the city borders in the West Bank.

They cite rising crime and the difficulty of getting building licences to maintain their homes.

But their main reason is the disintegrating social fabric. Israel has gradually decapitated Palestinian public life in the old city, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), for all its rhetoric about the sacredness of the city, has done almost nothing to reverse that.

"The main problem is that there is simply no civil society here. There has been a conscious policy by Israel to remove the national Palestinian character of the city," said Eileen Kuttab, a professor at Bir Zeit University from the Christian quarter.

"But I blame the PLO just as much. They have done nothing to establish a Palestinian presence here. Only civil institutions can save us," she added.

Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its undivided, eternal capital. The Palestinians claim the East as the capital of a future state. This conflict seems the most difficult of all those now facing the

two sides in peace talks.

The old city used to be the centre of Palestinian life, with scores of schools, hospitals, clinics and covered markets.

But a 1990 closure by Israel drained much life-blood out of the city. Many West Bank teachers, doctors and other professionals who worked in Jerusalem had to find other jobs and their institutions closed.

Apart from the popular tourist bazaar, the old city now boasts far less economic life than other Palestinian towns such as Ramallah and Nablus in the West Bank or self-ruled Gaza.

Palestinian officials and intellectuals happy to talk for hours about Jerusalem as a political issue rarely go there.

Drug use has fuelled crime, which rose 25 per cent in the last two years according to police figures. Robbery and burglary shot up by 85 per cent in the years 1991-93, to 596 reported cases.

"Israel has encouraged drugs use by Arabs," said Michel Sayyegh, a doctor who specialises in rehabilitating addicts. "One day during the intifada, I saw soldiers come into a house to take a child throwing stones. To get to him, they stepped over a group of young men taking heroin and left them there."

"Arabs are typically given lighter sentences for drug use than Jews," he added.

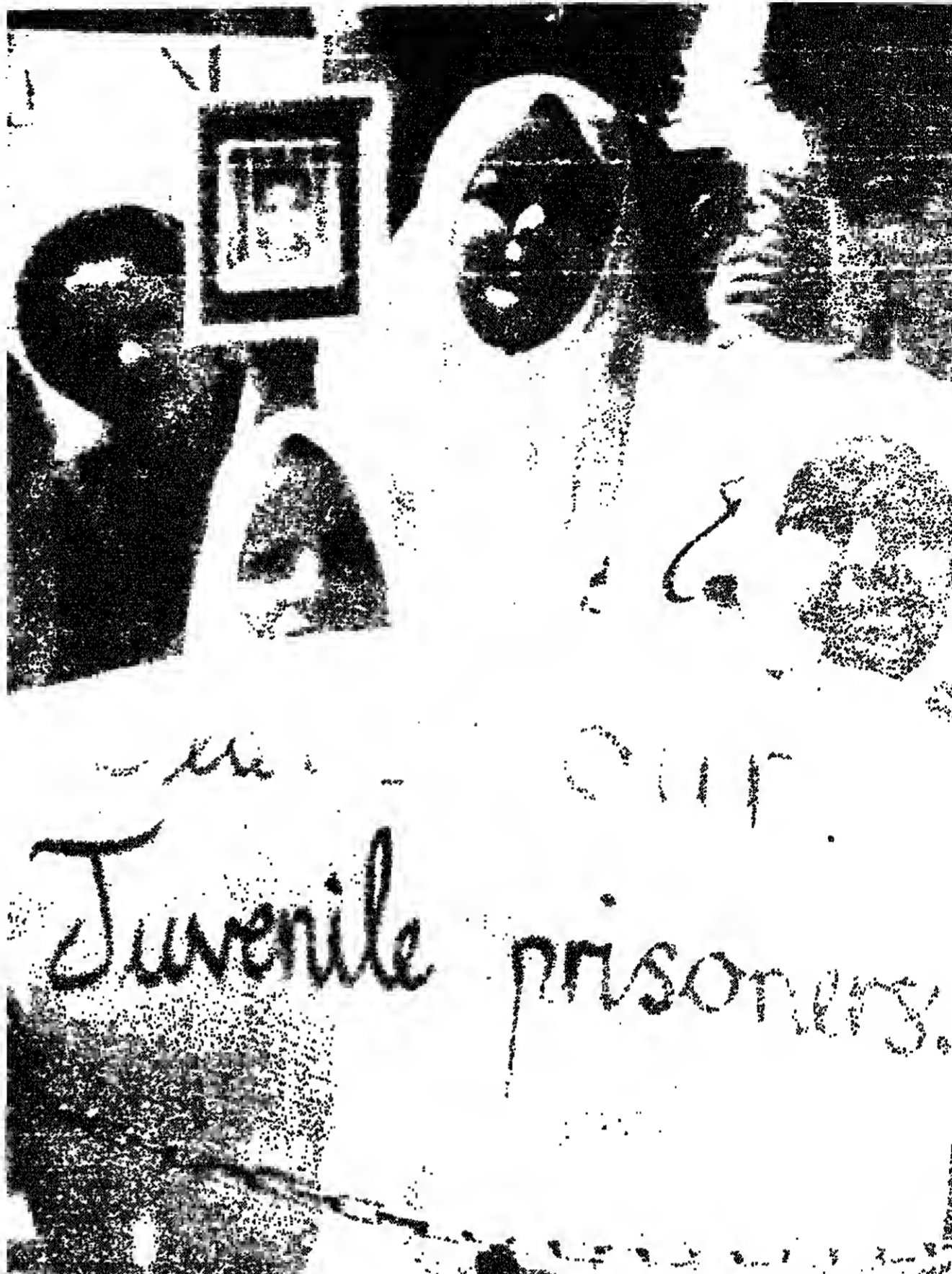
Jerusalem's Mayor, Ehud Olmert, talks of an "economic masterplan" to develop the eastern part of the city but leaves little room for Palestinians to develop their own services, since this would challenge its "Jewish nature."

"We have to invest in quality of life for Arabs. They are a respected minority," he said.

Palestinians say there is systematic racism in the way the municipal council rejects building permits for Arabs and approves them for Jews. Mr. Olmert denied this but said there had been problems under his predecessor as mayor, Teddy Kollek.

Faisal Al Hussein, the man the PLO has charged with looking after Palestinian interests in the city, says he plans to introduce services, run a Jerusalem committee set up by the PLO, and encourage initiatives by Palestinian businessmen.

But he tacitly admits he is



Palestinian women in Jerusalem demonstrate to demand the release of detained relatives (AFP photo)

fighting a losing battle: "Their resources are many, many times more than ours. We know there are many social problems with drugs and crime mafias that the Israelis have turned a blind eye to."

Most Arabs in the old city have not heard of any Palestinian initiative to provide leadership.

"I was born here and would like to stay but I must tell you, if I get the money I will move my family out," said Ibrahim Saleh, a 42-year-old souvenir seller. The large walls of his house, at least 200 years old, are covered with mould.

"This house is collapsing on us. Only two out of the

five rooms are usable and we cannot get a permit or the money to repair the rest," he added. "I might be better off if I lived in Gaza. Here we live in the capital but we are forgotten," said Mr. Saleh.

New U.S. troop role: 'I came, I saw, I pacified'

By Charles Aldinger

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Twisting Julius Caesar's *Mardi* Credo a bit, the U.S. military's unfamiliar mission in Haiti boils down to this: "I came, I saw, I pacified."

And those thousands of heavily armed troops trying to pave the way for democracy in Haiti have rekindled bitter debate in Washington over the uncertain role of America's armed forces after the cold war.

Peacekeeping and humanitarian aid, not bashing the enemy, are the Pentagon's lot in small nations these days, while politicians and generals worry that "mission creep" will kill or injure troops in tasks they are not prepared for and were not originally assigned to do.

"The cold war is over. We must secure the peace," U.S. President Bill Clinton told the United Nations on Monday in a speech following a weekend firefight in which U.S. marines killed 10 Haitian police and paramilitary gunmen.

Mr. Clinton urged other nations to share the workload. But analysts say the brunt of the burden is falling in large measure on the world's only remaining superpower, where budget cuts are now fast shrinking the armed forces.

Opinion polls show most Americans oppose the U.S. mission to restore ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power even though an outright invasion was called off in a last-minute deal with Haiti's military leaders.

"You've got a military that took trillions of dollars



A Haitian woman walks by a U.S. soldier positioned outside the Port-au-Prince international Airport (AFP photo)

to take the next bill and win dogfights in the clouds. And they are off fighting Haitian police," said Joshua Epstein of the Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank.

"But if you're going to restore democracy in Haiti, why not restore minimum standards of life in Bosnia?" asked Mr. Epstein, stressing that decisions on use of troops in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid are sometimes driven more by the politics of outcome than right and wrong.

He lashed out at Democrat Clinton for risking U.S. troops in Haiti. Both Republicans and Democrats in congress are likely to balk at the financial cost.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said last week the Haiti mission will cost over \$250 million this year alone and the Pentagon will ask Congress for a check because the military operations budget is cut to the bone.

The Haiti operation follows two other controversial missions of U.S.

forces into the Third World: Rwanda, where the last forces running a humanitarian aid effort are now leaving, and Somalia, from which they have all been withdrawn.

"Sending the troops was easier when war was the issue or it was a mission that didn't risk lives and that most supported," said former U.S. assistant defence secretary Lawrence Korb.

"But with the Soviet Union gone, it's hard to justify risking people on missions that sometimes seem to

solve little in the long run," added Mr. Korb, who is also with Brookings.

Despite Haiti, Somalia and Rwanda, Mr. Clinton has made clear no U.S. troop involvement in the bloody civil war in Bosnia. The likelihood of dangerous combat remains too high.

Haitian and Bosnian peace are in the U.S. national interest — but not in its "supreme national interest," and therefore not worth a full-scale war.

"When the prospect of world war three was around, there was plenty of justification for having a big military and using it," said one senior Pentagon official.

"Even the Gulf war was easy because fighting Saddam Hussein was like fighting Hitler. But times sure are changing fast."

G-7 says recession over, must do more to sustain growth

MADRID (R) — The world's seven richest industrial nations Saturday declared the recession over but said more work had to be done to produce sustained growth.

"Growth is there, inflation is under control, employment is improving — the worst is behind us," the Group of Seven (G-7) said in a draft document prepared for a meeting in Madrid. But the draft also called for increased efforts to make sure the upturn lasts.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the G-7 — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — were holding talks in Madrid on the fringes of the 50th anniversary meeting of the IMF and World Bank.

As the two Washington-based world funding organizations basked in their half a century of achievements, there were angry demonstrations at the conference centre on the outskirts of the Spanish capital.

Chanting "50 years are too much," the protestors complained about the efforts of "World Bank lending policies" in the environment in the third world.

In its draft document, the G-7 called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to assume a bigger role in watching the industrial world's economic policies to promote greater cohesion.

Determined to make sure that some of the strongest growth seen in recent years does not evaporate too quickly, the G-7 said rich nations had to carry on reforming their economies.

"The objective now is to pursue policies to achieve long-term sustained growth," the draft said.

These included cutting budget deficits both in the U.S. and in Europe and the implementation of expansionary policies in Japan, where the recovery is still fragile.

The G-7 will not issue a communiqué after the talks but, press briefings scheduled for late Saturday, ministers were likely to drum home a message to nervous financial markets that they will not let inflation spiral as economies speed up.

"The inflation problem is never dead, it will always be there. We must always be alert, but at the moment I see no immediate inflationary fears in Germany," Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer told reporters before the talks.

On the sidelines of the G-7 top U.S. and Japanese officials were holding talks on a bilateral trade row after a deadline to resolve the dispute expired on Friday night without agreement.

The U.S. will impose sanctions on Tokyo if Japan does not free up its markets, U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said. "We are continuing to press for the opening of these markets."

Another top G-7 priority this weekend is finding a common response to an IMF call to pump \$50 billion into the world economy via an issue of its currency, the Special Drawing Right (SDR).

Germany opposes the plan, which it says is not necessary and could be dangerously inflationary.

But Bonn has accepted a joint U.S./British proposal to issue about \$24 billion of SDRs aimed at providing liquidity to 37 new IMF members, mainly former communist countries in east Europe.

Algeria opens domestic foreign exchange market

TUNIS (R) — Algeria, moving its tightly-controlled foreign exchange system a step towards free market economics, announced Friday that the value of the dinar would in future be set by matching available hard currency with demand from commercial banks.

"The Bank of Algeria will organise fixing sessions with the resident commercial banks for the dinar's rate of exchange," a central bank statement said.

"The aim of the fixing sessions will be the determination of the dinar's exchange rate according to the relation between currency offered by

the bank of Algeria and demand from the commercial banks," it explained.

It said the rate will be applicable to commercial operations. The change took effect Saturday.

Algeria, a debt-burdened oil producer, is suffering serious civil strife between Islamic fundamentalists and the army-backed authorities.

The dinar rate was until now fixed unilaterally by the central bank and announced once a week. Friday's spot rate put the dollar at 40.8 dinars, the French franc 7.7 dinars.

The central bank did not say how often its fixing ses-

sions will be held. All but one of Algeria's commercial banks are owned by the state.

"This new mechanism constitutes a new step in the process of liberalisation of the foreign exchange regime with the aim of reaching a situation in which the dinar rate is determined by market mechanisms," the statement said.

Algeria's debt is about \$26 billion and the debt service for 1994 is estimated at \$9.5 billion. Official forecasts put this year's exports at \$8 billion and imports at \$9 billion.

On June 1, the Paris Club of government creditors res-

cheduled \$5 billion of Algeria's total debt. That followed the IMF's grant of a \$1.04 billion standby package aimed at supporting an economic stabilisation programme.

The central bank also announced Thursday that a debt rescheduling agreement with France was signed in Paris Thursday.

A similar deal was also signed with Austria on Sept. 27 in Vienna, the central bank added in a statement carried by the official news agency APS.

The statement did not give any detail on the size of the

debts with France or Austria. Algeria has already signed similar bilateral deals on its public debt rescheduling with the Netherlands and Canada, within the framework of last June's Paris Club accord.

The statement said discussions with the 17 member countries of the Paris Club started in July and that the final negotiations with Belgium, Spain, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany are scheduled for October.

Negotiations with other countries are planned before December, it added.

Oil price hits \$17

LONDON (R) — World oil prices rallied Friday on demand for North Sea oil and continued disruption of gasoline exports from Brazil.

World benchmark Brent Blend futures for November traded up to \$17.00 per barrel Friday afternoon, 26 cents above Wednesday's closing price and above a \$15.65 mid-month low.

That low was hit as prices corrected down from a peak of \$19.41 hit after a bull run lasting five-months which added \$6 to oil prices.

"The outlook is positive," said Alastair Harris at brokers Mees Pierson Derivatives in London.

On Friday, a labour tribunal in Brazil began a hearing in which it will rule on a four day strike by oil workers.

The strike has closed Brazil's ten refineries which export gasoline to the United States and slashed its crude production to 15 per cent of normal levels.

Meanwhile, a scramble to secure the last remaining October North Sea cargoes will keep the European crude market firm next week, traders in the region said.

But the shadow of poorer refining margins may still cool heated demand.

Despite exporting 35,000 barrels a day (b/d) of gasoline to the United States during the first half of this year, Brazil also usually imports around 600,000 b/d crude oil.

Traders say the strike may block those imports and undermine demand for barrels from Venezuela and the Middle East Gulf.

Soaring inflation in Iran provokes discontent, criticism

TEHRAN (AFP) — Prices of consumer goods have sharply risen in Iran in the past few months, triggering widespread discontent among the population and strong criticism of the government's free-market policies.

In three months, the prices of consumer goods have jumped between 20 and 100 per cent, while average monthly wages have remained unchanged at around 150,000 riyals (\$60).

The price of a kilogramme of vegetable oil has risen from 2,000 riyals (80 U.S. cents) to 5,000 riyals (\$2), a kilogramme of sugar from 1,400 riyals to 2,400 riyals and a litre of milk from 200 to 400 riyals.

Bread is among the few products which have not risen in price, but the cost of rice, a staple in Iran, has nearly doubled to around 3,000 riyals.

The population has also witnessed sharp increases in their electricity and telephone bills, the cost of mail as well as taxi fares.

The official inflation rate has been put at 30 per cent for the past year, but foreign economic experts estimate the figure to be twice as high. The government, seeking to ward off criticism, has

explained the price hikes as an inevitable side effect of a transition from a centralised economy to a market-oriented one.

But the parliament, the media and the conservative Shiite Muslim clergy have in the past few days called for greater government intervention, demanding strict price controls and other measures in favour of the poor.

In open and closed sessions of the parliament in the past week, the deputies have called for "urgent measures" to be implemented to check the inflation and to help the poor, considered the main base of support for the Islamic regime in Iran.

On Wednesday, several members of parliament openly criticised the government's economic policies as "too soft," with one charging that prices were rising "by the hour."

Ahmad Khomeini, the son of the late founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has also taken a tough stand against the government's free-market policies, initiated by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in 1989.

"In the name of privatisation, the capitalists have been allowed to destroy the coun-

try's economy and exploit the poor masses," he said earlier this week.

Several top clergymen in the holy city of Qom in central Iran have urged the government to act more firmly and impose strict price controls.

Fearing the social impact of the deteriorating economic situation, the conservative-dominated parliament summoned several ministers to the closed sessions of the assembly this week to bear their explanations.

The mounting pressure has prompted the government to increase or keep in place old subsidies, and reimpose certain regulations which existed in the early years of the revolution and during the 1980-1988 war with Iraq.

About \$1.25 billion has been allocated to subsidise basic goods such as wheat, rice, sugar, cooking oil and cheese for the next five years, according to Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, a member of the parliament.

To avoid further inflation because of a hike in the cost of energy, the government has considered distributing discount coupons to the poor to make oil-related products more affordable.

IMF wants tougher Russian anti-inflation line

MADRID (R) — IMF officials Saturday called on Russia to move its economic reforms onto a faster track, promising the maximum possible assistance if it adopted policies geared for Western-style inflation rates.

But additional financial aid for Russia was possible even if Moscow continued a more gradualist approach, they said.

"Obviously it would be irresponsible not to consider seriously a well-constructed, gradual anti-inflation programme," Ernesto Hernandez-Cato, one of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) top experts on Russia, told a news conference.

"But as of now we consider that a more radical approach... deserves the maximum consideration on our part," he said.

Russia, which launched its economic reforms in January 1992, brought monthly inflation below five per cent in August, from a 1993 average of 20 per cent. September inflation was 7.7 per cent.

But Mr. Hernandez-Cato said current rates were not low enough.

"We believe that the best thing for Russia is to bring inflation down to levels at which it would stop being a serious economic disruption,

Preston defends World Bank social record against protests

MADRID (R) — World Bank President Lewis Preston Saturday defended the institution's social and environmental record in project lending over its first 50 years, as protest groups accused it of destructive policies.

"Looking back over the past five decades, there is no doubt that the development effort has been a great success," Mr. Preston told a news conference.

He said life expectancy in developing countries had risen 50 per cent, infant mortality fell by two-thirds and per capita income doubled.

The bank has provided \$300 billion for 6,000 loans in 140 countries.

But this did not stop opponents of World Bank policies from breaking into Mr. Preston's news conference and accusing the bank of financing projects that displace people and destroy livelihoods.

It was the latest in a series of small-scale protests by ecologists at the annual gathering of the bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week in Madrid.

Saturday's protesters, two women and a man, were

quickly bundled away by security guards, but Mr. Preston faced persistent questioning from journalists on river projects in Nepal and India where the bank was said to be forcing residents to leave their homes.

He said that on the 50th anniversary of the bank, it was time to look at the priorities ahead, which he listed as internal management changes to increase cost-effectiveness, building a more open institution.

"With over a billion people still in absolute poverty, the challenge of development has

not diminished, but has been made more complex by the speed and scope of global change," he said.

He said the bank's board would next January discuss proposals to reduce administration costs by six per cent, and could not now say whether this would mean staff cuts.

He said three issues will shape the bank's future role: Private capital flows to successful middle-income adjusting countries, especially in East Asia and Latin America, responding to transition

in the former Socialist Bloc, and critical poverty in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of south and central Asia.

Meanwhile, alternative forum, an umbrella group of ecologists and economists critical of the World Bank and IMF, is planning a series of demonstrations during the rest of the meeting but has no fixed plans to disrupt the

plenary sessions. Protest marchers through the centre of Madrid Sunday will carry banners saying "we don't want them here."

"It'll be a festive occasion with floats and music, but it's still a protest," a spokeswoman for the alternative forum said.

"We expect around 5,000 participants," she added.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fair day to handle worldly affairs that are important to your welfare. Be practical and efficient and don't let one who is a talker keep you from following through with your intentions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) By combining hunches with your good judgment wisely, you will know how best to go after your goals and gain them for your benefit.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a fine day for having a long talk with your mate concerning new plans and long time interests and coming to a fine understanding.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be on the alert for some new conditions to develop which can be most helpful to utilize for your benefit. Enjoy a good meal tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make your outside affairs more productive if you study data pertinent thereto for a new project. Be happy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Early contact good friends and plan the recreation you want to enjoy with them. Plan time to perfect a talent which has served you well.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a fine day for having family fun and enjoying all the comforts of home and hearth. Invite interesting friends to your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to attend some film lecture which can be very enlightening and educational in the daytime. Give someone a thoughtful gift.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to figure out what can be done to increase your income in the near future so that you can better your situation in life.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are benefits accruing to you so be prepared to seize any opportunities at hand. Drive with utmost care to prevent problems.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Add more scope to present enterprises so that you gain greater success in the near future. Plan to have more harmony at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be enthusiastic about personal affairs and pursue them vigorously. Contact those friends who are anxious to see you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can accomplish much in the outside world today, so step out early and get busy seeing the right people who can be beneficial.

Birthstone of October: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flagler

ACROSS

- Blame later
- Same
- Conciliate
- In addition
- See bird
- Love, Italian style
- Give cheese
- Went out
- "Home, home on the range"
- Henry's dessert?
- Nova
- Left
- Refrain start
- Aide fledging
- Musical court
- Coal machine
- Halo
- Reconditioned music box?
- British peer
- Beverly's love
- Russian velvets
- Stop talking
- Denour
- Step
- Imperfection
- Unassigned nations' influence?
- Preparation
- Seethe
- Refractive
- Mythological hunter
- Concerning
- Sample
- Edgeway
- Pre-Easter period
- Hooks for landing fish
- Kind of acid
- Houston athlete
- Drink in honor of
- Last place
- Venezuela
- Copper center
- Shy dampening
- Nairobi's land
- Cooked cereal
- Lawmaker's abode
- Coat
- Observer
- Powerful
- Unleashed
- Cooper
- Shed
- QED word
- Books in the sun
- Employer
- Jack's wife
- Belge
- Shed feathers
- Poodle
- Start of cap or jerk
- Orator
- Chaucer
- Ready for use
- Ruined
- Confused
- Williams or Hood
- Boe
- Role
- Cognizant
- Enter
- Upright
- Liberal translation
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- Tongue or anus
- Down-on-add-on
- Downback
- Ballot coins

Puzzle solved:

DOWN

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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Beet'n' Jeff



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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHARP

PERAP

LOUHYR

SACULE

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: MINOR DOUSE HARDO SHERRY

Answer: What the janitor always kept at arm's length — HIS HANDS

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 29/9/94	New York Close Date: 30/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5782	1.5800
Deutsche Mark	1.5487	1.5501
Swiss Franc	1.2855	1.2859
French Franc	5.2853	5.2925
Japanese Yen	98.60	99.16
European Currency Unit	1.2345	1.2323

* USD Per STG

** European Opening - 9:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.00	5.37	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.18	5.68	6.00	8.06
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.67	5.00	5.43
Swiss Franc	5.56	3.81	4.06	4.37
French Franc	5.28	5.40	5.75	6.25
Japanese Yen	3.12	2.18	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.81	6.12	6.75

Interest rate for deposits exceeding 1.5 million 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 1/10/1994

Currency	Aid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.0950	1.1035
Deutsche Mark	0.4485	0.4507
Swiss Franc	0.5405	0.5429
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.7019	0.7054
Dutch Guilder	0.4007	0.4027
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6330	1.6500
Lebanese Lira	0.0410	0.0425
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1874
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5150	2.5470
Qatari Riyal	0.1903	0.1923
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7810	1.7810
UAE Dirham	0.1592	0.1602
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3115
Cypriot Pound	1.3950	1.4970

* Per 100

Airlines, traders lose out as Gulf-India traffic halted

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states, fearing that an outbreak of plague in India may spread, have closed their airspace and territorial waters to traffic from the subcontinent, inflicting losses on several airlines and traders.

The ban, which entered its third day Saturday, has crippled activity in one of the busiest air routes in Asia and brought one of the most thriving show trades in the world to a complete standstill.

"We will suffer losses, as this is one of our most profitable routes, given the high demand," an Air India official said.

"Our planes are also being subjected to strict inspection measures at Gulf airports although many of them are not coming from India."

An official from Gulf Air, which is owned by four Gulf governments, said the airline could lose millions of dollars if the ban remained in effect in the coming weeks. He

noted the company could not offset the loss from other destinations, as the Gulf-India route was the busiest in its flight network.

Air India and Gulf Air account for nearly two-thirds of the more than 1,000 weekly flights between the oil-rich region and the subcontinent.

Most of the flights are fully booked, as over 50,000 people shuttle between the two regions every week.

India maintains a relationship with the Gulf dating back more than a century. Indian merchants used to sail to the region to sell spices, perfumes and other home-made products in exchange for pearls.

The trade slumped when Japan invented cultivated pearls, but picked up again when oil was discovered in the Gulf four decades ago and turned the impoverished desert region into one of the wealthiest in the world.

India's busiest regional air and sea link is with Dubai,

home to more than 200,000 Indians. Many are businessmen who maintain regular commercial relations with their homeland and are a key source of gold for India.

Most of India's trade with Dubai and other parts of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is conducted by ships and dhows — the traditional wooden boats of Arabia.

In 1993 India's trade with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was worth over \$3 billion.

India's exports to the region consisted mostly of food, spices, perfume, incense, clothes, machinery, electrical appliances and other manufactured products.

"We do not know how long this ban will continue, but it is very costly for us," an Indian trader in the UAE told AFP.

"I and my partners cannot seek other markets because we have long-term contracts in India and we have commitments to our clients here, as demand for Indian products is high."

Importers of vegetables and other foodstuffs, however, said they had turned to other markets like Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran to make up for the losses.

Authorities in the UAE have turned back several food-laden dhows that

approached its coast, while many more have returned home before reaching its territorial waters, according to UAE coastguards.

Dealers said they expected the price of spices and other Indian specialty products to increase if flights and shipping remained suspended for weeks. They ruled out an early price rise because of large existing stocks.

Gulf states imposed a ban on air and sea traffic with India to prevent the spread of plague that has killed nearly 50 people there. On Friday, officials said they were stepping up anti-plague measures despite Indian protests.

The measures included

screening of passengers at airports, the establishment of emergency centres, spraying pesticides in houses, public places, ships and aircraft and organising awareness campaigns.

The UAE, with the largest Indian community in the Middle East, went further by suspending postal services as well as visas and work permits for Indians.

"I do not understand what all these measures are for," said a UAE-based Indian, whose wife and three children were stranded back home on vacation. "It only remains for them to cut telephone links with our country."

Analysts: Asia to continue facing petrochemical shortage

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asia will continue to suffer from a shortage of petrochemicals despite fervent efforts to increase capacity in line with growth, industry officials and analysts have said.

Demand for petrochemicals in the region would grow by up to nine per cent annually, more than double the world growth rate, because of increasing Asian exports of value-added products, such as textiles, clothing, footwear and machinery, they said.

"Asia at large will remain a net importer for petrochemical products," said Mandava Rao of the National University of Singapore's chemical engineering department at an international seminar on petrochemicals here.

Mr. Rao said current shortages in Asia could not be overcome even if the booming South East Asian economies moved from a demand position of 3.1 million tonnes per year to an excess supply position of 200,000 tonnes in

three years as projected. Asia's petrochemical market was currently a business of more than \$30 billion annually and was going to expand more than double to \$80 billion by 2000, analysts attending the conference said.

To satisfy growing demand, many Asian nations had built up or were about to increase their petrochemical capacities.

Major chemical producers from the West, facing relatively slower growth rates and increasing competition at home, are also tapping the Asian market.

"With the existing facilities and also upon completion of the planned facilities, Asia is going to be the chemical powerhouse by the turn of the century," Mr. Rao said.

Anthony Kam, the Asia Pacific vice president of Mobil Petrochemicals International Ltd., told the conference that Asia's petrochemical

industry could be more profitable if there were enhanced regional cooperation. "By mutual cooperation, joint development efforts and free trade within the region, Asia's petrochemical industry can be a world-class player with a bright and profitable future," he said.

Mr. Kam noted that essential ingredients to support a globally competitive petrochemical industry in Asia could not all be found in one nation.

While Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan — the well-developed, export-orientated petrochemical producers — had good infrastructure and skilled workers, none of them had any indigenous hydrocarbon resources.

However, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia — where petrochemical plants were being developed rapidly — had hydrocarbon resources but they lacked technology, skilled workers and infrastructure.

Bulgaria, Russia to send gas to Europe and Turkey

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria plans to build three new gas pipelines across its territory to distribute Russian gas to western Europe and Turkey, Bulgaria's energy committee chairman has said.

Under a deal setting up a joint gas company with Russia, Bulgaria will complete a pipeline to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia which would then be extended to Italy under the sea, Nikita Shervashidze said in an interview.

"Apart from the gas pipeline to Turkey, which is now operating, the construction of a new one is planned," Mr. Shervashidze said.

A third pipeline to Greece is also under construction. The joint gas company agreement, which Mr. Shervashidze called the deal of the century, was ratified by the two sides in Moscow last month. The pact is due to be signed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during a visit to Sofia this month.

Under the agreement Russia represented by its giant Gazprom and Bulgaria represented by state firms only, would hold equal stakes in the venture.

"Russia will pay half the construction costs for the pipeline," Mr. Shervashidze said.

He added that the plan would help stabilise Bulgaria's economy as it would profit from transit taxes and be able to rely on a constant supply of gas.

"Our agreement with Russia for natural gas imports expires in 1997 and we should not forget that afterwards we would have to pay for gas in foreign currency," Mr. Shervashidze said. "The establishment of this gas company is essential for us."

Pakistan approves plan for gas pipeline from Qatar

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet has approved a plan to import natural gas from Qatar, a government statement said.

It said an ECC meeting chaired by Ms. Bhutto approved the scheme, which provides for a \$3.2 billion gas pipeline to be laid from Qatar to Pakistan. It gave no further details.

Pakistani President Farooq Leghari said last month after a visit to Iran that Tehran had agreed to join the project.

The project's first phase would comprise a 1,600-kilometre pipeline and transmission facilities from a southern gas field in Qatar to Pakistan.

The pipeline is planned to carry 1.6 billion cubic feet of gas per day and later to be extended to India.

The gas pipeline project is being sponsored by Sharjah-based Crescent Petroleum Co. International, Canada's transCanada pipelines Ltd., the world's foremost gas transmission company, and Brown and Root Inc., which is a leader in offshore pipeline engineering and contracting.

The pipeline will carry gas offshore from Qatar across the lower Gulf to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) west coast and overland across northern UAE to the Gulf of Oman.

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S. Korea rolls over Nepal 11-0 as soccer tourney starts

HIROSHIMA, Japan (R) — South Korean striker Hwang Sung-Hong scored a record eight goals as his team rolled over Nepal 11-0 Saturday, establishing themselves as the favourites in the Asian Games soccer tournament.

And two former Soviet republics celebrated their first appearances in the games with strong showings.

A late penalty shot gave Turkmenistan a surprise 2-2 draw with China and Uzbekistan stunned Saudi Arabia 4-1.

In other first-round games, Malaysia edged Hong Kong 4-3, Kuwait tied Oman 2-2, and Bahrain shut out Yemen 2-0.

But it was South Korea's performance that had the Asian Games buzzing before the event even formally opens Sunday and set off a scramble for the record books.

Hwang's eight goals were the most by a single player in Asian Games history and organisers were trying to determine if the 11-0 win was the biggest ever.

The striker from Seoul's Posco Atoms, one of the world's biggest steelmakers, scored five of South Korea's seven goals in the first half.

He headed home goals, slammed them in from well outside the penalty area, weaved around the goalkeeper and delicately guided them through walls of players.

Hwang, 26, a veteran of

two World Cup campaigns, left tiny Nepal in a daze and they spent most of the game desperately clearing the ball from the goal mouth.

South Korea, Saudi Arabia and China along with host Japan were the favourites in the 16-team tournament.

China was fortunate not to lose as they could not overcome a Turkmenistan side that arrived only one day before the game with 11 players, had no specialist goalkeeper, and played most of the second half one man down.

Forward Kamil Mingazov took over in goal and let in a shot by Gao Feng in the 11th minute and a disputed penalty by Gao Zhongzun in the 70th minute.

Turkmenistan opened the scoring in the fifth minute when Berymuradov's free kick deflected off the wall and past Chinese goalkeeper Ou Chuliang.

Captain Chariyarkuli Seidiyev tied the game for Turkmenistan by converting an 87th-minute penalty.

China had also been reduced to 10 men just before the goal when Jin Ghuangzhu was given his second yellow card of the game.

The Turkmenistan players also thought they had scored in the 73rd minute when the ball appeared to cross the line after a goalmouth scramble following a corner kick, but referee Abdul Rahman Al Zeid ruled it had not.



Hiroshima Games emblem

Rahman then showed the red card to Murnuradov for arguing the call.

"It was an injustice," Murnuradov said. "It was a real goal because the ball crossed the line."

Turkmenistan manager Tachmurag Agamuradov said transportation problems meant the coach and six players would arrive late for the tournament.

"We didn't have a goalkeeper. It was indeed a difficult situation so we were very happy we could tie the game," he said.

Saudi Arabia and South Korea represented Asia in this summer's World Cup, but the Saudis only selected players 23 years old or younger for the tournament.

Besides Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, three other former Soviet republics — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan — are making their first appearance at the games.



GAMES OPEN TODAY: Hundreds of school students Friday perform during the rehearsal Games at the Hiroshima big Arch (AFP photo)

Dortmund turn up the Bundesliga heat

BONN (AFP) — Brazilian defender Julio Cesar guided Borussia Dortmund towards the top of the Bundesliga Saturday, engineering a victory that left his side level on points with leaders Werder Bremen.

Bremen's two other pursuers — reigning champions Bayern Munich and SC Karlsruhe — were lucky to come away with a point after falling badly behind in both their matches.

Cesar, who had an excellent game, broke the deadlock against Bayer Uerdingen with an 80th minute header. Andreas Moller, the club's pre-season signing from Juventus in Italy, sealed the win in the final seconds.

Dortmund now join Bremen, who play SV Hamburg next Thursday, on 11 points.

Bayern Munich were 2-0 down at half-time to Cologne, much to the fury of 63,000 crowd in the Olympic stadium, who were hoping for an improvement on Wednesday's narrow win over Dynamo Kiev in the European Champions League.

Fortunately, defender Christian Ziege pulled one back in the 66th minute and striker Alexander Zickler got the equaliser eight minutes from time.

However, it still didn't prevent the team being whistled off the pitch at the end.

Bayern's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, back from injury and another dismal afternoon.

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ENGLISH SOCCER

Cole, Lee earn Newcastle
2-0 win at Villa

LONDON (R) — Newcastle United stretched their lead at the top of the English Premier League with a 2-0 win at Aston Villa Saturday as second-placed Blackburn went down 2-1 at Norwich.

Newcastle's red-hot goalscorers Andy Cole and Robert Lee were both on target to take their tally to 11 apiece for the season.

Champions Manchester United kept in touch with a 2-0 win over bottom side Everton, but Arsenal slumped to a shock 2-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace, who had not won this season.

Ian Wright scored his 100th goal for Arsenal, but it was scant consolation as the defeat cast one of the pre-season title contenders 14 points adrift of Newcastle.

Steve McManaman scored a hat-trick as Liverpool came from behind to crush Sheffield Wednesday 4-1. Ian Rush claimed the other goal.

Tottenham Hotspur ended a run of three league defeats thanks to a stunning long-range goal from Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu for a 2-1 victory at Wimbledon.

Blackburn, who suffered a shock midweek exit from the UEFA Cup against Swedish part-

timers Trelleborgs, went down to their first league defeat of the season at Norwich despite taking an early lead.

Chris Sutton took only four minutes to score against his old club on his first visit since they sold him to Blackburn for five million pounds (\$7.9 million).

But Norwich equalised through Mark Bowen on the half-hour and notched up only their third league win of the season when defender John Newsome scored his first goal for the club in the 55th minute.

Blackburn remained in second place, but fell five points behind the leaders.

Newcastle were held goalless for over an hour by Villa, but the home side, tired following their UEFA Cup eversions against inter Milan on Thursday and the league's leading scorers, Cole and Lee, snatched a seventh win in eight games.

Lee put Newcastle ahead in the 66th minute with a shot that swerved wickedly through the air and spun when it hit the ground in front of goalkeeper Nigel Spink. Cole struck seven minutes from time.

McManaman ended a two-year goal drought at Anfield in emphatic fashion with a hat-trick as Liverpool moved up a place to fifth.

Rush equalised Ian Nolan's

first-half goal in the 51st minute. Three minutes later McManaman put Liverpool ahead with his first league goal at Anfield since November 1992.

He added two more in the 66th and 86th minutes.

A first-half header by Andrei Kanchelskis put Manchester United on course for a victory that moved them to within two points of Blackburn and third-placed Nottingham Forest, who play Queen's Park Rangers Sunday.

The Russian international converted Lee Sharpe's 41st minute cross and sharp sealed the game with a goal of his own two minutes from time to leave Everton with just three points from eight games.

Three years to the day after a knee injury almost wrecked his career, John Salako damaged Arsenal's title aspirations with both goals in Crystal Palace's 2-0 win at Highbury.

Salako, who spent two years battling to rescue his career from the crippling injury, blasted away the Gunners with goals in the 19th and 41st minutes.

England striker Wright notched up his century of goals in 143 games for Arsenal against his old club, but could not save them from a second home defeat.

Noel Whelan also scored twice to lift Leeds to a 2-0 win over Manchester City and into sixth place and Southampton picked up their third league win a four matches with a 3-1 victory against Ipswich.



Ian Rush

Al Hussein lead as violence
mars Jordanian soccer scene

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Hussein maintained the lead on goal difference over second placed Al Wihdat at the conclusion of the 5th week of the Jordan Soccer League first division championship which was marred by some violence during Thursday's match in Irbid city between Al Hussein and Kufu Soum.

Al Hussein managed to beat Kufu Soum 5-2 after uncertainties over holding the match. The Jordan Soccer Federation has decided to move the match from Mafrag city to be held in Irbid amid protests by Kufu Soum.

The match was interrupted after some violence by fans who were calmed by security personnel, but scattered clashes started on the field among players which prompted the referee to send off Kufu Soum's Suleiman Mohamad.

After the end of the match, one of the linesmen was physically assaulted by one of Kufu Soum's reserves.

This was not the only violent incident marking the weekend soccer matches since second division team Al Fuheis players and administrators also attacked the referee of their match with Al Salt. The referee, Mohammad Hudeib, was first assaulted by Imad Mifrej of Al Fuheis after he was issued a red card. Then the referee,

chased all over the field, punched and kicked by the player, decided to end the match, a decision which angered the other team members and administrators who followed the suit of Mifrej.

The security personnel again bad to interfere to end the violence and the referee was taken from Al Petra Stadium in Amman to a nearby hospital and discharged later in the evening.

Al Salt was leading 1-0 before the match was interrupted.

In Amman Friday, Al Wihdat managed to score a 3-1 win over Shabab Al Hussein to stay in second place, after Al Hussein.

Al Wihdat's goals were scored by Talal Rahai'ah, Ibrahim Sa'diyeh and Jamal Mahmoud. Shabab Al Hussein's Wa'el Abourah

scored his team's only goal. Meanwhile, Al Jazireh of Amman beat its hosts Al Karmel of Irbid 2-1 to keep it bottom-placed in the league standings.

Simone Kheir scored two goals for Al Jazireh, while Al Karmel's Riyad Abu Sariyah scored his team's only goal.

Also in another match held in Irbid late Friday, Al Ramtha and Al Faisali drew 0-0.

In Amman, Al Ahli beat Al Jeel 3-0 with two goals coming from Nart Yada.

In Mafrag city, Al Qadissieh managed to score its first win of the season, defeating Al Arabi 3-1. Al Qadissieh's goals were scored by Muneer Abu Hantash, Mustafa Adam and an own goal by Al Arabi's Zakariya Momani. Rakez Karasneh scored the only goal for the Irbid side.

Standings after 5th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Hussein	5	5	—	—	20	4	10
Wihdat	5	5	—	—	8	1	10
Ramtha	5	2	3	—	8	3	7
Faisali	5	2	2	1	8	3	6
Ahli	5	2	2	1	6	6	6
Kufu Soum	5	3	—	2	13	14	6
Jazireh	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
Shabab Al Hussein	5	1	1	3	8	12	3
Arabi	5	1	1	3	4	11	3
Qadissieh	5	1	1	3	7	11	3
Jeel	5	—	1	4	3	11	1
Karmel	5	—	—	5	2	11	—

SUKACITA KAMI MENGUCAPKAN SELAMAT DATANG

KEPADA YANG AMAT BERHORMAT PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA.

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DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BTE HJ. MOHD ALI.

JUGA MENGALU - ALUKAN KEDATANGAN

PENGERUSI MISC DAN TIMBALAN PENGARAH PENGURUSAN

SERTA DELEGASI.

SEMPENA LAWATAN RASMI MEREKA KE JORDAN ATAS

JEMPUTAN RASMI KERAJAAN JORDAN

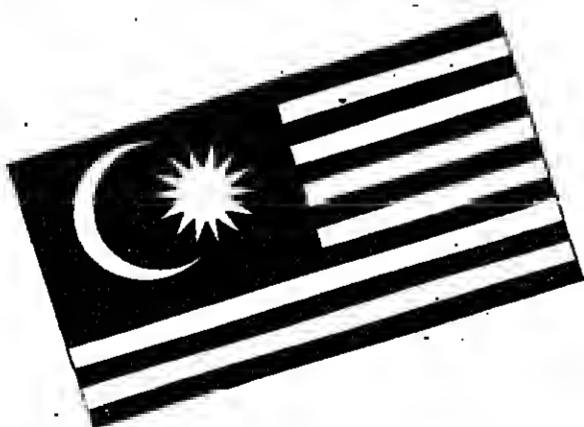
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CARLITO'S WAY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Friday for children. The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.		SPANISH ROSE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SLEEP WALKERS Shows: 3:15, 5:15		Cinema and Theatre Presents the political comedy: Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

Iraq: No monitoring if sanctions remain

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq will not allow U.N. monitoring of its arms industry unless sanctions imposed for its invasion of Kuwait are lifted, Baghdad's most influential newspaper said Saturday.

"Undoubtedly, the coming two weeks will lead to a decisive stage in the course of the military, political and economic confrontation between Iraq and... American imperialism," Babel, published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said in a front-page editorial.

Babel said Iraq would not wait for sanctions to be eased as envisaged by U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus's special commission after a six-month period to which the monitoring process would be tested.

It said "the notorious (U.N.) Resolution 687" did not stipulate any test-period and Iraq was not under obligation to accept it.

"There will be no future monitoring without lifting of the embargo and no cooperation with the U.N. from one side," Babel warned.

The editorial was Iraq's strongest warning to date of the actions it might take if the devastating sanctions, which include a block on oil exports, were not removed.

Babel lambasted the U.N. envoy, describing him as the "accursed Ekeus." It said he was supposed to announce the start of a U.N. long-term monitoring of Iraq's arms industry on Oct. 10 and from Iraq's point of view "the chapter of hanged weapons will be closed."

U.N. sanctions have wrecked Iraq's economy, already hit hard by the Gulf war. The government decided last week to cut food rations by as much as half.

The rationing barely provided Iraqis with half of basic needs.

Prices of scarce staple foods have soared to unprecedented levels.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said Iraq gave up its long-range missiles, binary chemicals and nuclear

and biological warfare equipment in the hope of seeing a quick end to the embargo.

"What is the price we got for that?" Al Jumhuriyah asked. "Shall we remain hands folded and see our great Iraq going with the wind?"

Iraq's official press has hardened its stand towards the United Nations and the United States following a speech by President Saddam Hussein this week warning that he would not stand idle in the face of the continuing embargo.

Mr. Ekeus, president of the U.N. special commission on Iraqi disarmament, will head to Baghdad next week for what could be the final inspections of long-term arms monitoring systems, his spokesman said Friday.

Mr. Ekeus has his final session with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz Friday, prior to taking off for Baghdad from Sunday to Thursday, his spokesman Tim Trevan said.

Mr. Ekeus is due to submit a written report to the Security Council on Oct. 10 in which he is expected to say the U.N. surveillance systems at Iraqi military production sites are ready to be activated, Mr. Trevan said.

Several nations, including France, Russia and China, said that if Iraq recognises the borders with Kuwait and a six-month trial period for the surveillance system is successful, then there could be a partial lifting of sanctions against the country.

On Wednesday, Culture and Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi warned that Iraq would refuse to accept long-term weapons monitoring unless the embargo was lifted.

U.N. inspectors have been eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres since Baghdad's ouster from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

China's ambassador in Baghdad was quoted Saturday

as saying that the Security Council should end the trade sanctions on Iraq.

The envoy, Sun Bigan, said in an interview with Al Jumhuriyah that Beijing will "continue and also enhance its relations with Iraq, despite the difficulties that it faces as a result of the embargo," the Iraqi News Agency said.

"It is of great importance to respond to the Iraqi position by alleviating the sanctions and lifting them," he was quoted as saying.

Russia is already making detailed plans to resume trade once sanctions are lifted and to recover debts estimated at between \$7 and \$16 billion.

The United States and Britain, the other two permanent members of the council, oppose any easing of the sanctions.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said on Friday the Security Council, including the United States, had to set definite criteria on Iraqi sanctions and move carefully towards lifting the oil embargo.

"It would like to know exactly what the U.S. administration really wants in order to be able to start applying this paragraph 22," he said, referring to a provision in a key Security Council resolution relating to the oil embargo.

He told reporters Iraq needed to recognise Kuwait and the United Nations needed to be satisfied that long-term monitoring plans to make sure Baghdad did not re-acquire dangerous weapons were up and running.

Mr. Juppe said that if Iraq recognises Kuwait, "I think we could start looking at a probation period enabling us to verify that the monitoring plans really do work."

"If that probation period turns out to be satisfactory, then at the end of that period the time will come to see whether it would be possible to implement a lifting of the oil embargo," he said.

Princess Basma, Malaysian first lady discuss development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Saturday received Dato Seri Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah bte Haji Mohd Ali, wife of Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohd, prime minister of Malaysia, at the headquarters of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The visit included briefing about the activities of QAF in social and economic development in Jordan, a QAF statement said.

Dr. Siti Hasmah, who was the first lady doctor to be appointed the state maternal and child health officer and who holds various positions in several women's organisations, showed particular interest in the women and



health sectors, it said.

The discussion also touched upon the activities of the Jordanian National Committee for Women and the preparatory committee for the 1995 international conference on women, both of which are hosted by QAF.

Princess Basma and Dr.

Siti Hasmah discussed the role of women in the Jordanian and Malaysian societies, which are similar in several aspects and emphasised the importance of education for women as a leading factor in development.

"If you educate one woman, you educate a na-

tion," said Dr. Siti Hasmah, quoting her father. She added that there are four evils that a society should eliminate to achieve progress: poverty, ill health, apathy and ignorance, and that both Jordan and Malaysia have made great progress toward this goal.



Prince Andrew sometimes lonely at sea

LONDON (AP) — The Duke of York, describing his life in the navy, said in an interview broadcast Friday that he sometimes would rather be home with his family and that his job can be extremely lonely. Surrounded in his cabin by photographs of his estranged wife, Sarah, and their two young daughters, Prince Andrew spoke to Independent Television News about his job commanding the Royal Navy minehunter HMS Cottesmore. The 34-year-old second son of Queen Elizabeth II has served in the Royal Navy for 15 years and was a navy helicopter pilot in the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Argentina. He said he found commanding a ship very rewarding but, "it's a job not dissimilar to watching paint dry. It takes a very, very long time to achieve anything... And as a commanding officer you can on occasions get extremely lonely and isolated if you're not careful." "I want to go home and be with my family as much as I possibly can. But the responsibilities that I have mean that the ship, while I am commanding, has to come first to a certain extent and there are times when I am here who would prefer to be at home." The duke and duchess, who separated in March 1992, are sometimes photographed with their daughters and enjoying each other's company, and speculation regularly arises that they will be reconciled.

Hurd to rule on immunity for divorce case princess

LONDON (AFP) — Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will be asked to decide if a Norwegian princess is entitled to diplomatic immunity to prevent her being named in a British divorce case. Saturday's Telegraph reported. Princess Martha Louise, 22, a direct descendant of Queen Victoria and second in line to the throne of Norway, is alleged to have had a two-year affair with a show-jumper — 40-year-old Philip Morris — and has been named by his wife in divorce proceedings. Under Norwegian law, the princess has royal immunity from court actions in her country. Whether that immunity extends to other countries, including Britain, will be for the British government to decide. According to The Telegraph, Judge Gerald Angel adjourned a preliminary hearing at Somerset House, London to allow time for Mr. Hurd to be asked to make a ruling. Morris has denied the affair and the princess is said to have expressed her unwillingness to give evidence. Even if she is not granted immunity, she cannot be made to testify. If she is, the case would be moved to other grounds. The aggrieved wife, Irene Morris, is determined to name the princess on her divorce petition. "She wants to identify the woman who stole her husband," her solicitor, Patricia Pearl, is quoted as saying.

Singapore tightens anti-smoking rules

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore, which already has the toughest anti-smoking laws in Asia, tightened them further Saturday. Smoking is now banned almost everywhere in this city state of three million, but outdoors or in special rooms, said Richard Lim of the Environment Ministry. The new rules add to the list of no-smoking areas air-conditioned offices and factories and enclosed common areas of private residential buildings, like stairways, enclosed elevator lobbies, toilets and storerooms. Managers of such places are responsible for enforcing the new rules. Those who fail to do so face the same fines as smokers — up to 1,000 Singapore dollars (\$676) for the first offence and up to 2,000 dollars (\$1,351) for repeat.

Jordan to reopen mission in Kuwait

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan will send a diplomat to reopen its embassy in Kuwait after a hiatus of more than three years, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday, signalling a likely end to a strain in ties with the Gulf states.

Ahmad Mbeideen said the diplomat will leave for Kuwait "in a few weeks," but noted that the envoy has not yet been named.

"There are no real difficulties in sending new staff to Kuwait," Mr. Mbeideen said. "We have only technical problems that we have to overcome, and by the end of the year we'll have the first diplomat in Kuwait."

Mr. Mbeideen welcomed a decision by the Kuwaiti cabinet to allow the return of several thousand Jordanian

workers expelled after the emirate was liberated in February 1991 from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

He said this will speed up normalising relations between Kuwait and Amman.

"This is a positive signal and indication of gradual normalisation between the two countries," Mr. Mbeideen said.

Kuwait sent home the last diplomat at the Jordanian embassy in the oil-rich emirate after the 1991 Gulf war.

It also expelled more than 320,000 Jordanians, recalled its ambassador from Amman and refused to allow Jordanian diplomats to visit the emirate.

But the Kuwaitis allowed Amman to send a senior diplomat, Mashhour Zaben, to

the emirate last month, breaking the ice and paving the way for a rapprochement.

There are similar moves underway with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan met his Saudi and UAE counterparts on the sidelines of U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York last week.

Saudi Arabia leads the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the U.A.E.

Jordan's ties with Oman have traditionally been strong and were not affected by the Gulf crisis. The Hashemite Kingdom has already normalised its relations with Qatar.

Ties with Bahrain depend on Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia, since the island state takes its cue from its giant neighbour.

It is unlikely that the oil-rich Gulf states would immediately restore financial aid to the Kingdom, given their dwindling oil revenues because of low prices.

Western diplomats say the United States played a key role in advancing Jordan's efforts to reconcile with the Gulf states after King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a declaration in July ending the 46-year state of war between their countries.

That gave the plodding U.S.-sponsored, three-year-old Middle East peace process a shot in the arm.

Kim Jong-Il to be sworn in this month

SEOUL (AFP) — A report by a Seoul newspaper Saturday that Kim Il-Sung's son, Kim Jong-Il, would be inaugurated this month as president of North Korea appeared to end speculation over a power vacuum in North Korea.

The report, by the Han Kyoreh Shinmun, quoted an invitation from North Korea to a friendship association in the United States. It came on top of a North Korean broadcast last Sunday quoting Kim Jong-Il as saying only mourning for his father had prevented his swearing-in.

"How could we organise an inaugural ceremony and chant hurrahs while our grief was still too deep," Radio Pyongyang had quoted 52-year-old Kim as saying of his failure to be sworn into the country's two top posts — that of president and party general secretary.

The Han Kyoreh Shinmun, in a dispatch from its Washington correspondent, quoted the co-chairman of the Korea-North America Friendship Association as saying his group had been invited to attend the inaugural ceremony in Pyongyang.

But the co-chairman, Kim Wun-Ha, whom the newspaper's Washington correspondent interviewed by phone from Geneva, said the only reference to a date had been in relation to the Oct.

15 ceremony marking 100 days since the elder Kim died.

"Though the details have not been finalised, during our contacts with the North Korean side for the 100 days ceremony, North Korea asked us to include the inaugural ceremony as a part of our schedule," the co-chairman was quoted as saying.

"So it is certain that Kim Jong-Il will be named state president and (Workers') Party general secretary," he said, adding that a 30-strong delegation from the United States, would attend the North-South Joint 100-day Memorial Service.

Han Kyoreh, an independent newspaper which often airs dissenting views, said that the invitation from Pyongyang had been received in the United States on Sep. 29.

Since the sudden death of Kim Il-Sung on July 8 — in the midst of a nuclear standoff with the United States and days before an historic inter-Korean summit was to have been held — speculation has mounted over why the reclusive younger Kim had not taken full powers.

Known in the isolated Stalinist state as "the dear leader" while his father was called "the great leader," the younger Kim had been groomed for more than 20 years for succession.

Five defendants deny involvement in attacks

AMMAN (AP) — Five defendants implicated in a spate of bomb attacks and assassination attempts retracted pre-trial confessions Saturday.

They are among 25 men being tried for subversion at the State Security Court. Three of the accused are at large.

The defendants have been charged with homing attacks on public and private institutions in late 1993 and early this year.

The men are known as "Arab Afghans," or Muslim activists who fought alongside Mujahideen factions against Soviet forces during the Afghan war that ended in 1990.

The suspects cannot be identified by name under court regulations. The court has also barred detailed press reports of the hearings.

Saturday was the first hearing of defence testimony after prosecutors had closed their case in the eight-week trial.

The prosecution said the bombing spree was part of a campaign to purge the Kingdom of what the attackers saw as mounting social corruption caused by Western influence.

Prosecution witnesses, mostly police officers, have told the military court that homemade explosives seized from the defendants' homes in February matched those

that had gone off at cinema houses showing pornographic films in 1993 and 1994.

The 25 men are purported to be part of a clandestine group which receives funding from Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire who bankrolled volunteers in the Afghan war and has since turned to financing Muslim extremists in the Arab World.

The prosecution has accused the men of getting military training in Pakistan in the 1980s and then returning to Jordan after the end of the Afghan war to destabilise the Kingdom.

The five who took the stand Saturday told the three-judge panel that they had travelled to Pakistan to study at universities. Only one of them admitted he received military training while there, but denied he intended to make use of his skills in Jordan.

He also admitted that he was the author of a paper containing instructions for making bombs which police found in a raid on his residence.

The five suspects also denied they had met with Osama Bin Laden, who is believed based in Sudan.

In retracting their pre-trial confessions, they claimed these were made under "physical pressure" practised by their interrogators.

Algerian universities open under threat of violence

ALGIERS (AFP) — An estimated 350,000 students and 18,000 teachers resumed classes in Algeria Saturday under threat of attacks from Islamic militants opposed to secular education.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the groups trying to overthrow Algeria's military-backed government, vowed on Aug. 6 to take "dissuasive action" against students, teachers and administrators who ignored its warning to stay away from classes this year.

Security guards patrolled the campus of Bab Ezzouar University, near Algiers, which is Algeria's largest university, with 25,000 students.

The guards, not visibly armed, will patrol the interior of the school also, and will not allow unknown vehicles

on campus grounds. Authorities have said that 2,000 "university guards" have been recruited but have not disclosed if they will be armed.

A police road block will be set up near Bab Ezzouar University. Security officials plan to construct a metal security fence around the campus.

Unidentified gunmen suspected to be GIA operatives killed the university's rector in late May in the campus parking lot.

The city hall, which is not far from the campus, was partially destroyed with explosives last Sunday.

Students seem more concerned with normal student affairs like schedules, registration for courses, and transportation than with threats from the GIA. Muslim students with long

beards or traditional veils walked alongside students dressed in western styles without apparent tension.

At the central university in Algiers, police were closely watching activity around the campus Saturday. Security guards searched backpacks and bags and checked student identity cards.

At the University of Social Sciences in Caroubier, in the eastern suburbs of Algiers, there were no signs of tension.

Some 1,200 professors of Algeria's 18,000 have left the country because of GIA threats.

On Monday, an economics professor at the University of Oran, in western Algeria, was shot dead.

Three other senior university administrators have died since June in attacks

officially attributed to armed Islamic groups.

Since the end of August, attacks have destroyed the Blida Hydraulics Institute (IHB), south of Algiers, and housing for women students at the Medical Institute in the eastern city of Constantine.

Many secondary schools have stayed closed in the region around Algiers where Islamic militant groups are the strongest. More than 500 educational institutions have been set on fire.

Primary schools have been open since Sept. 10, but to certain schools, notably in the Blida region, south of Algiers, the students and faculty submitted to GIA orders.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel names Rabat envoy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has named a senior foreign ministry official and native of Morocco to head the liaison office it is opening in Rabat, the ministry said Saturday. It said David Dado, director of the office in charge of relations with Arab states, would travel to Morocco on Sunday to prepare for the opening of the liaison office. He would also help prepare for Israel's participation in the Middle East economic conference to be held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on Oct. 30-Nov. 6. Mr. Dado, 45, emigrated from Morocco 17 years ago but has made frequent return trips to his native country. Morocco and Israel announced on Sept. 1 they would open liaison offices in Rabat and Tel Aviv, as a first step towards establishing full diplomatic relations.

Iran criticises Yeltsin

TEHRAN (AFP) — An influential Tehran newspaper on Saturday criticised Russia's President Boris Yeltsin for agreeing to U.S. demands for a halt to Russian arms sales to Iran. "The remarks made by Yeltsin in Washington about the future course of relations between Russia and Iran are not the remarks of a friendly neighbour," said the English-language Tehran Times. The paper urged the Foreign Ministry to "take note" of Mr. Yeltsin's comments and "take the necessary steps through proper diplomatic channels." Mr. Yeltsin, speaking at a news conference on Wednesday with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said "not other contracts, no other supplies, no other goods will be shipped" to Iran, once a 1988 Soviet-era contract runs out.

Thai-Saudi ties may be cut

BANGKOK (AFP) — Saudi Arabia may sever relations with Thailand if Thai authorities are unable to solve the Saudi jewellery case and the murders here of four Saudi diplomats and a businessman, Riyadh's envoy said Saturday. Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja told local reporters that Thai-Saudi relations would return to normal only when the murders of the diplomats and the businessman and the gems case are resolved. "If the cases cannot be resolved, it is possible that bilateral relations will be severed," Mr. Khoja said, adding that the decision was up to his government.

Iran hits U.S. exercises

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has condemned "illegal military exercises" by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf region and claimed they interfered with maritime patrols by Iranian helicopters, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday. The agency said the Iranian Foreign Ministry made the protest Friday. A protest note was delivered to the Pakistani embassy in Washington for relay to the U.S. State Department. Owing to the danger that results from these untimely exercises, unreasonable restrictions and unjustifiable notices given to airmen and mariners, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

protests these illegal activities by the government of the United States and calls for an end to such actions," the note said. Without giving any details of the U.S. exercises, the note said: "Such actions could jeopardise the principles of flight security in this region."

Iran gets new paper

NICOSIA (R) — Iran News, Tehran's third English-language daily and the first Iranian newspaper delivered through personal computer networks, began publishing on Saturday. "We expect to have more than 200 computer subscribers in Iran," Deputy Director Behrooz Talebpour told Reuters by telephone from Tehran. He said the computer delivery service, the first by any Iranian newspaper, was also available to subscribers abroad. The paper said in its first editorial that it would be independent, providing news and analysis within the framework of teachings by Iran's late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Fighting erupts in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — New inter-clan fighting erupted in the Somali capital Mogadishu Saturday between the Habre Gedir sub-clan of warlord General Mohammed Farah Aideed and another Hawiye sub-clan, the Marruse, U.N. military spokesman Major Rick McDoom said here. Maj. McDoom said the fighting started at 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT) around the junction of Medina and Uganda streets, with the combatants exchanging rocket propelled grenades and mortar fire. The fighting spread and was still in progress in the Bermuda area of central-southern Mogadishu, forcing residents of the area to abandon the surrounding streets, the U.N. spokesman said.

Cyprus marks independence day

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek Cypriot forces paraded through the divided capital Saturday with tanks and missiles to mark the 24th anniversary of independence from Britain, amid deadlock in U.N. efforts to reunify the island. President Glafos Clerides, leader of the 600,000-strong Greek Cypriot majority, took the salute and declared that the 10,000-strong National Guard "gives us the strength to face designs against the free part of Cyprus." Amid an increase in political tension in recent weeks as the United Nations' latest reconciliation effort foundered, Mr. Clerides last month called for "coercive measures" against the Turkish Cypriots if they continue to block reunification efforts.

Pasqua inaugurates mosque

LYON, France (AFP) — French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, roundly criticised for expelling suspected Algerian Islamic militants to Burkina Faso, has opened a show-piece mosque in France's second city Lyon. Mr. Pasqua, whose portfolio includes responsibility for religious worship, used the occasion on Friday to warn against extremism and called for an Islam that was part of France